RECORDED VERSIONS GUITAR

AUTHENTIC TRANSCRIPTIONS WITH NOTES AND TABLATURE

JOHN FAHEY

GUITAR ANTHOLOGY

HAL•LEONARD®

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THE YELLOW PRINCESS

AMERICAN PRIMITIVE GUITAR

One of the last, great pioneers of guitar exploration, the late John Aloysius Fahey (1939–2001) was the grandfather of instrumental acoustic fingerstyle guitar. For over four decades, Fahey's vast output of raw, imaginative, deeply beautiful, and sometimes bone-chilling guitar compositions have inspired legions of followers, including such disparate artists as Pete Townshend, Leo Kottke, Beck, Thurston Moore, and Jim O'Rourke, not to mention countless bedroom fingerpickers across the planet.

More than just a self-taught guitarist, Fahey was a musicologist, composer, record collector, writer, independent record label owner, painter, thinker, provocateur, visionary, and iconoclast. These attributes helped inform his unique sound, often infused with a variety of styles reaching far beyond the anchor of the blues he so loved, incorporating folk, classical, avant-garde, psychedelic, rock, jazz, country, bluegrass, world music, and more. John viewed the guitar as an orchestra in itself, regularly employing counterpoint and alternating bass as his main compositional vehicles. Someone later coined Fahey's style "American Primitive Guitar," reflecting the untrained, exploratory nature of his approach, derived from his study of American roots music.

Eighteen of his works live on in this ***John Fahey Guitar Anthology***, a definitive collection of notefor- note guitar transcriptions presented in both standard notation and tablature, covering his most iconic recordings from the 1960s and '70s. Fahey recorded multiple versions of several early pieces (sometimes three or four, and even with alternate

titles), so to avoid confusion, the source album will be noted with each song in this collection, as well as in the following Discography.

Many of this book's corresponding recordings can be found on the excellent John Fahey compilation albums released in the 1990s, in particular, ***The Legend of Blind Joe Death*** and ***Death Chants, Breakdowns & Military Waltzes***. But to create even further confusion, both of these albums include two versions of most of the songs—the originals and the "updated" recordings he produced a few years later. In the Discography, these are designated as "1" or "2," respectively, so it is clear which version each transcription is based upon.

Before you begin your guitar adventure, it is helpful to note a few things about Fahey's technique. He used a thumbpick and two fingerpicks (on the index and middle fingers), much like a banjo player. Picks are not necessary to learn the songs, but they will help in emulating the Fahey sound, if so desired. Otherwise, fingernails will do just fine. Alternating bass notes played with the thumb are used throughout these pieces, and often repeated with variations. Though Fahey's technique was far from traditional, you can generally assign the thumb to the bottom three low strings, and the fingers to the top three high strings. The key to most of Fahey's material is learning the pickhand patterns; once you can get them engrained in your fingers, you'll be off and pickin'.

DISCOGRAPHY

The Legend of Blind Joe Death (1996, Takoma – compilation album)

- “Desperate Man Blues” (2)
- “In Christ There Is No East or West” (2)
- “John Henry” (1)
- “Poor Boy, Long Ways from Home” (2)
- “Sligo River Blues” (2)
- “Sun’s Gonna Shine in My Backdoor Someday Blues” (2)

Death Chants, Breakdowns & Military Waltzes (1996, Takoma – compilation album)

- “Dance of the Inhabitants of the Palace of King Phillip of Spain”
- “Some Summer Day” (2)
- “Spanish Dance” (2)
- “Sunflower River Blues” (2)
- “When the Springtime Comes Again” (2)

The Transfiguration of Blind Joe Death (1965, Takoma)

- “Brenda’s Blues”
- “Tell Her to Come Back Home”

The Yellow Princess (1968, Vanguard)

- “The Yellow Princess”

America (1971, Takoma)

- “America”

Old Fashioned Love (1975, Takoma)

- “The Assassination of Stephan Grossman”
- “Jaya Shiva Shankarah” (duet with Woodrow Mann)

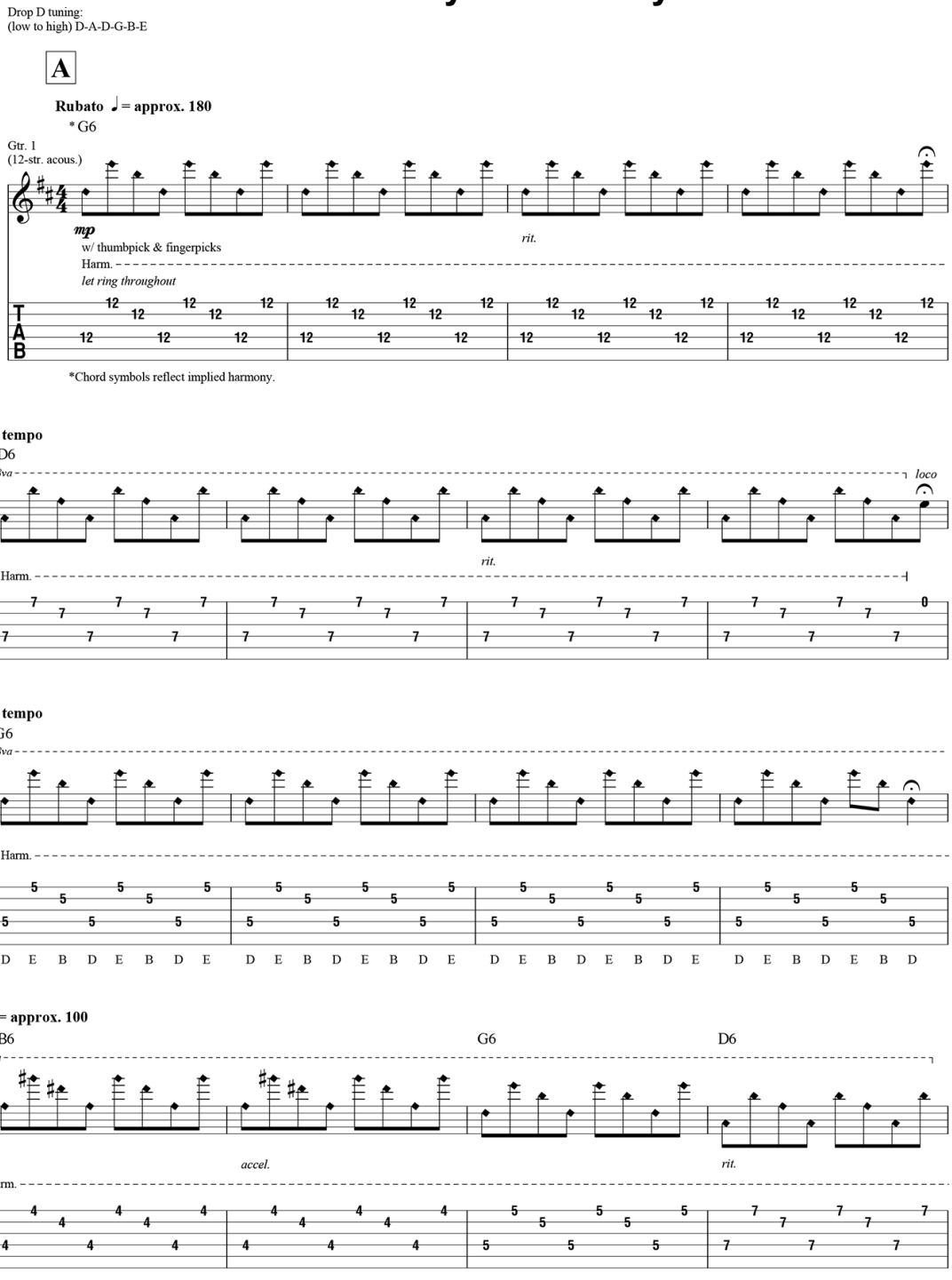
Live in Tasmania (1981, Takoma)

- “Steamboat Gwine ’Round de Bend”

from *America*

America

Written by John Fahey



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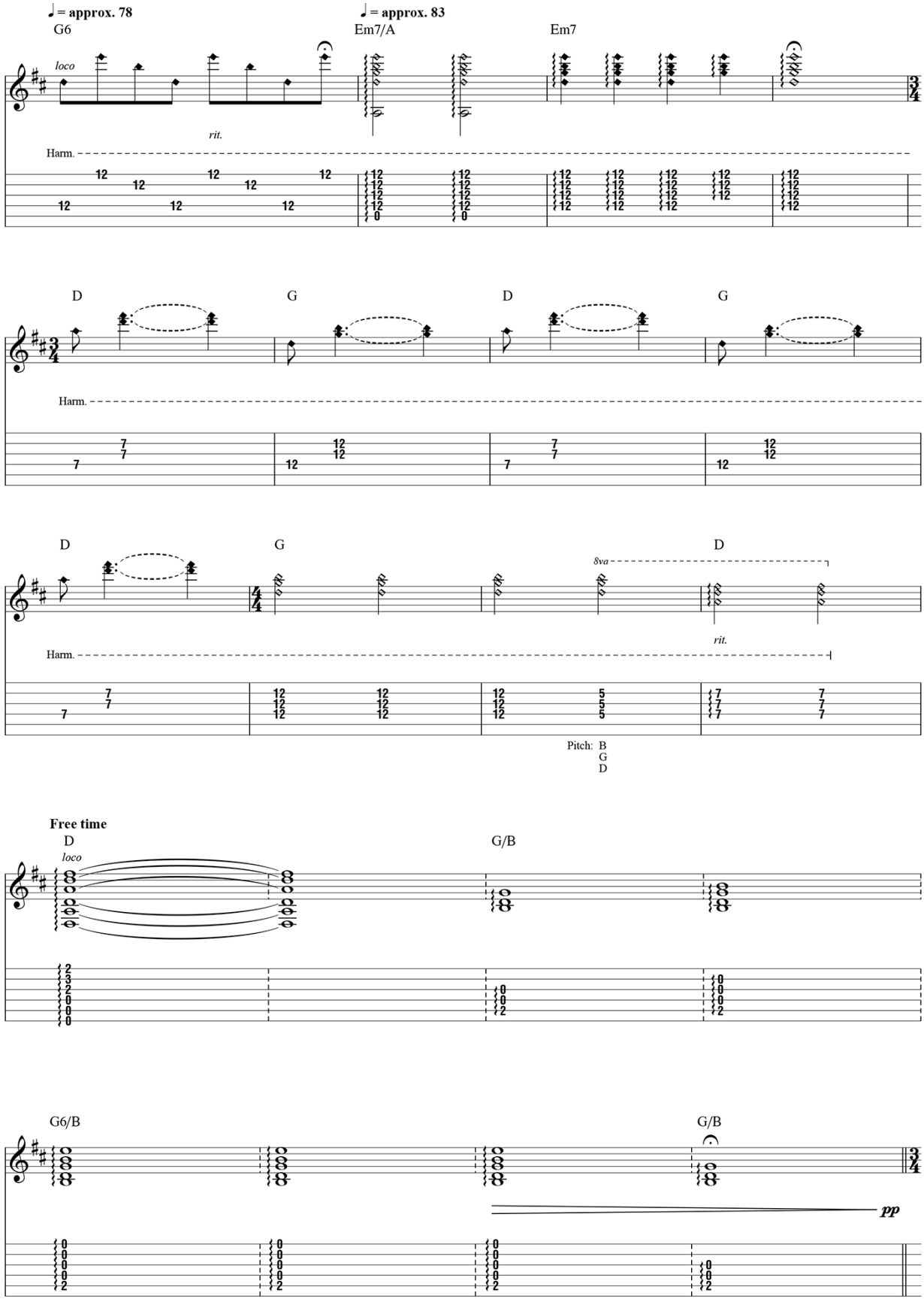
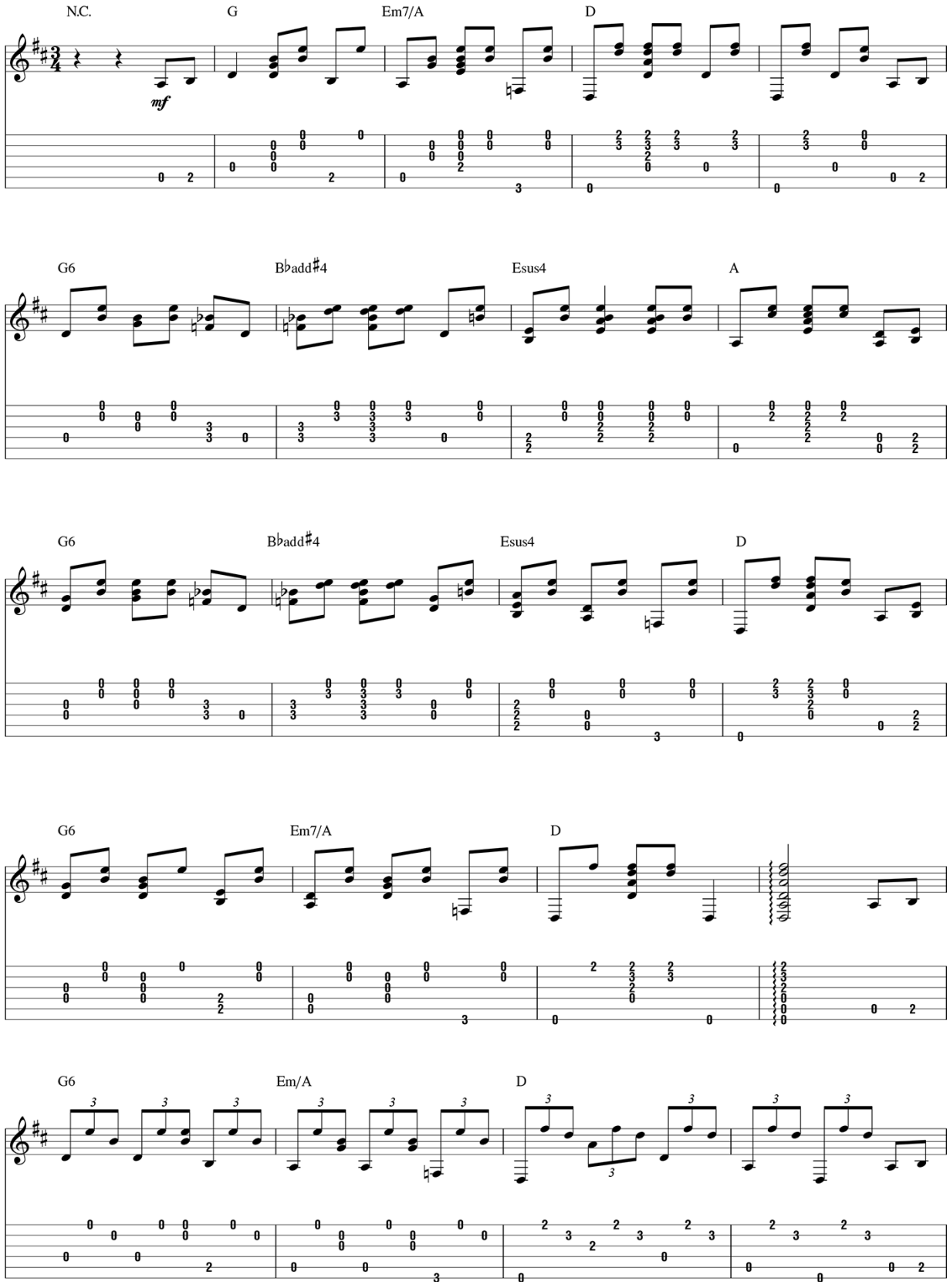
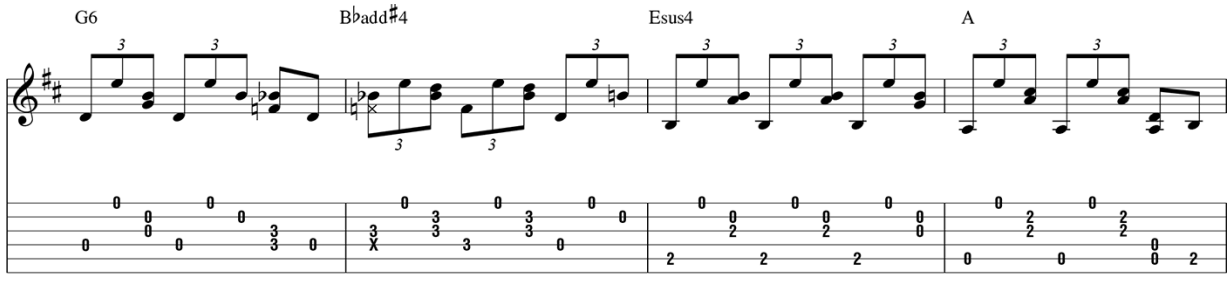
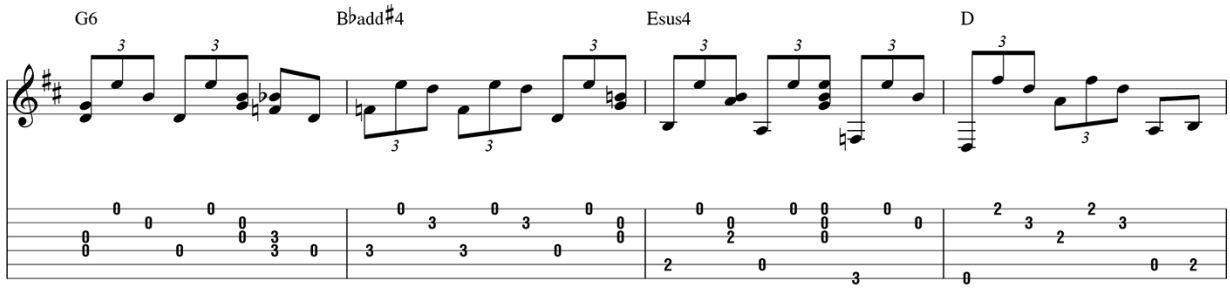

♩ = approx. 78
♩ = approx. 83
G6
Em7/A
Em7
loco
rit.
Harm.
D
G
D
G
Harm.
D
G
8va
D
rit.
Harm.
Pitch: B
G
D
Free time
D
loco
G/B
G6/B
G/B
pp

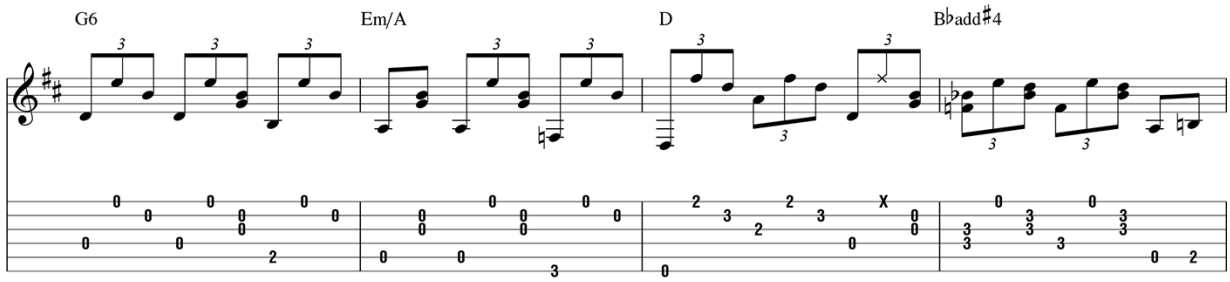
B

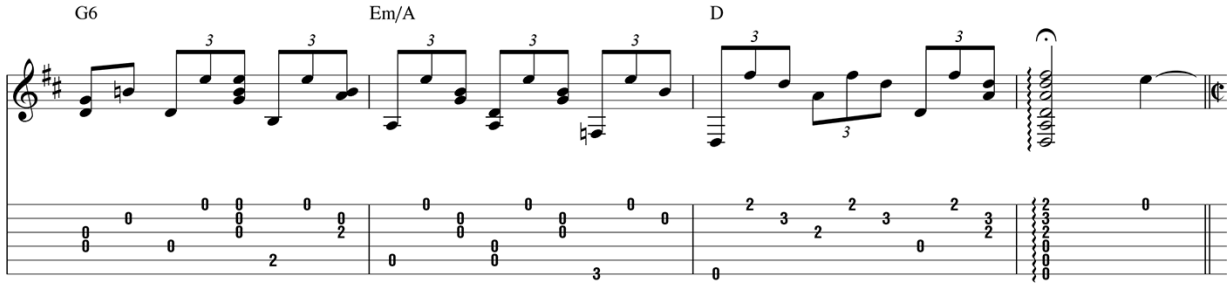
Moderately slow ♩= 70 (♫ = ♩³♪)





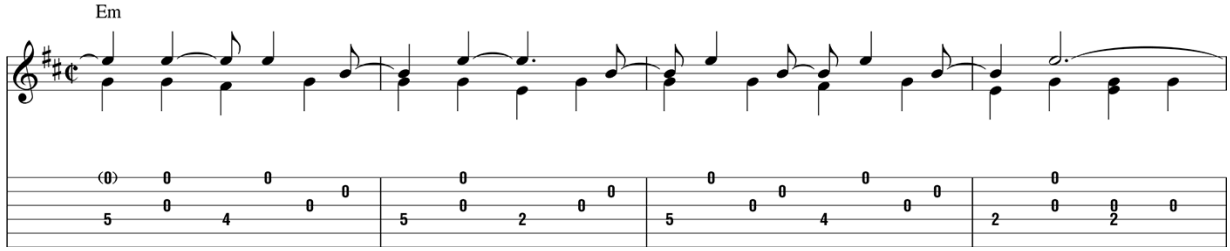


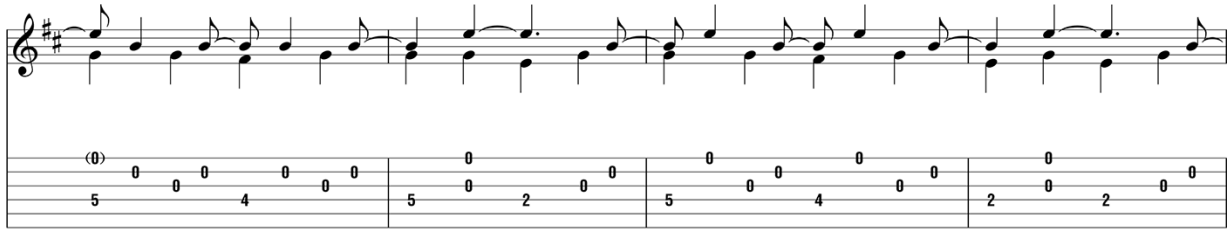


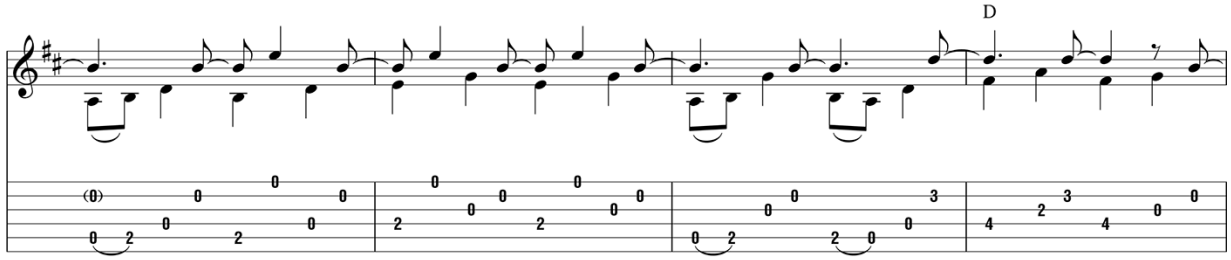


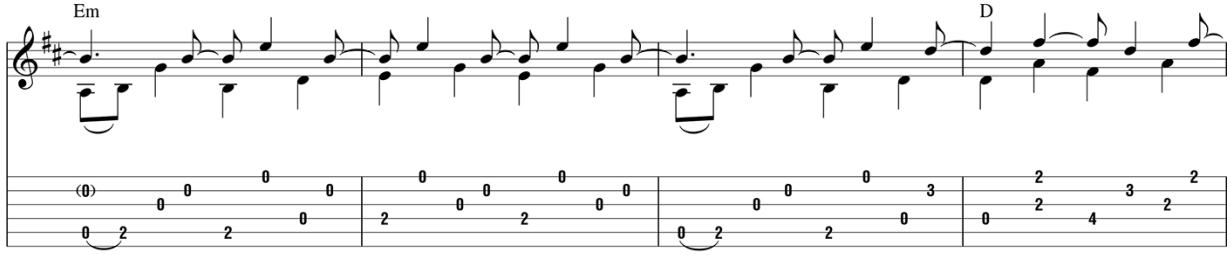
C

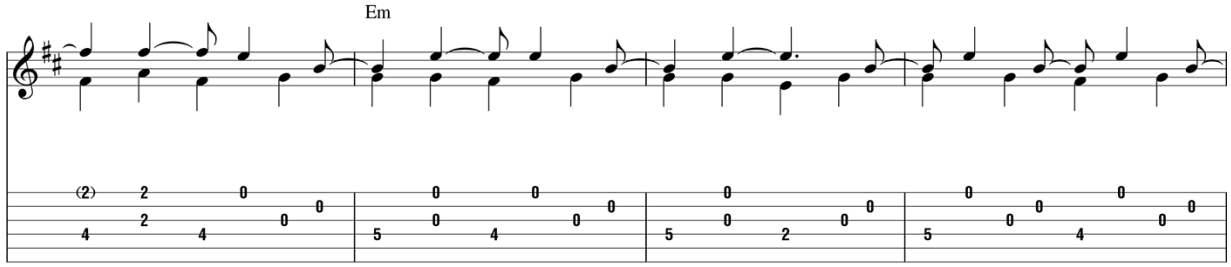
Moderately ♩ = 98

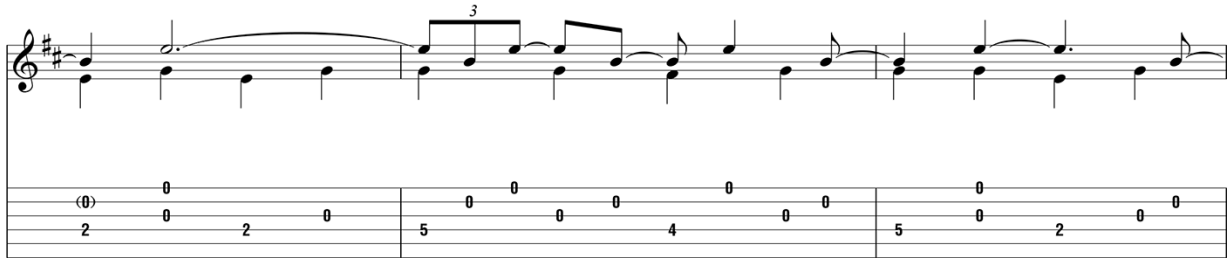





D


Em
D


Em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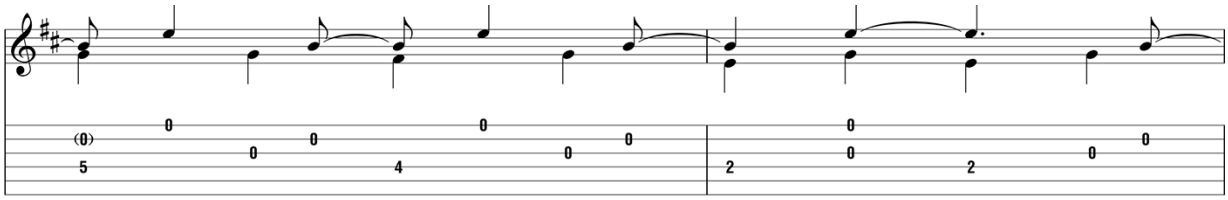
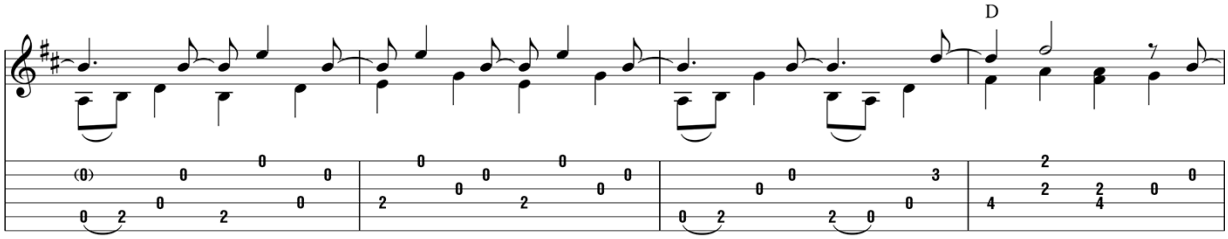
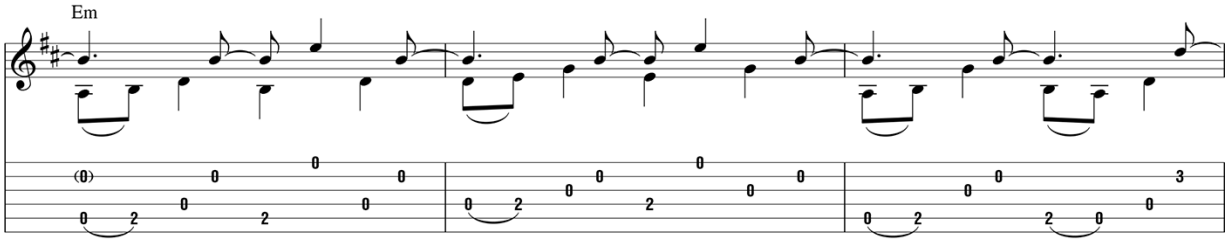
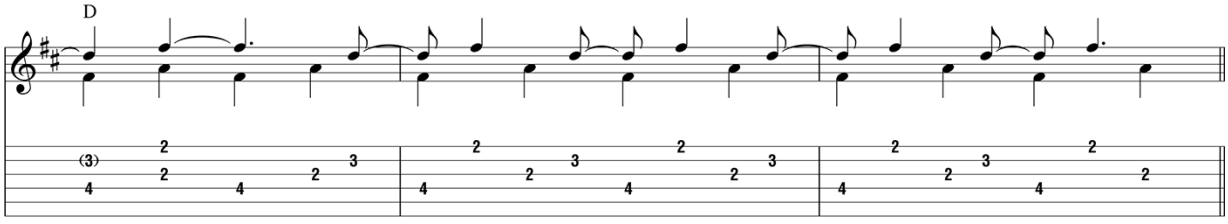
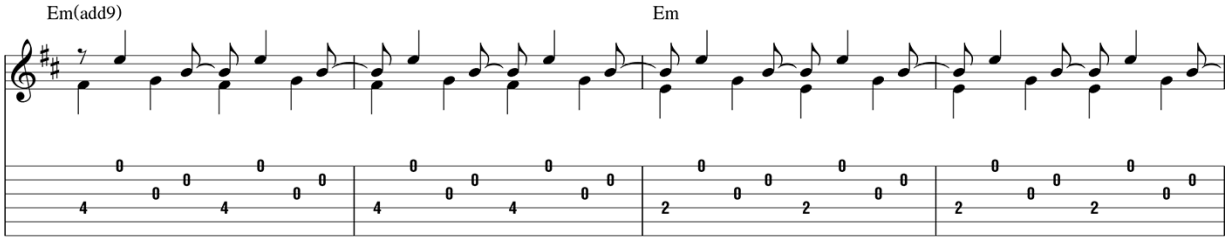


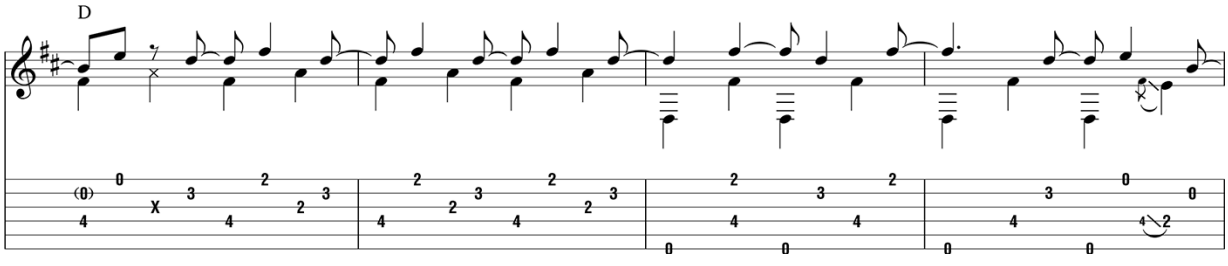


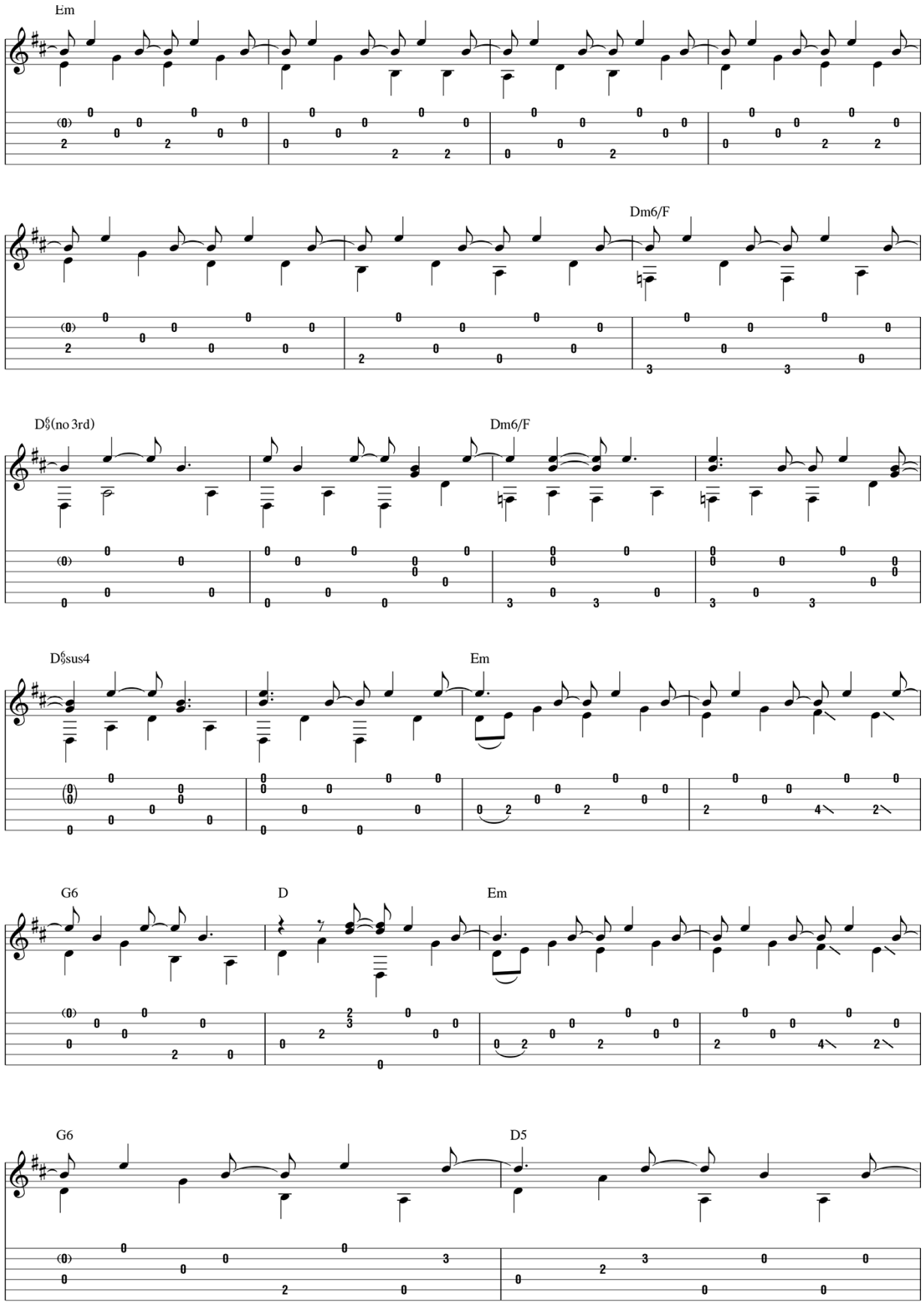


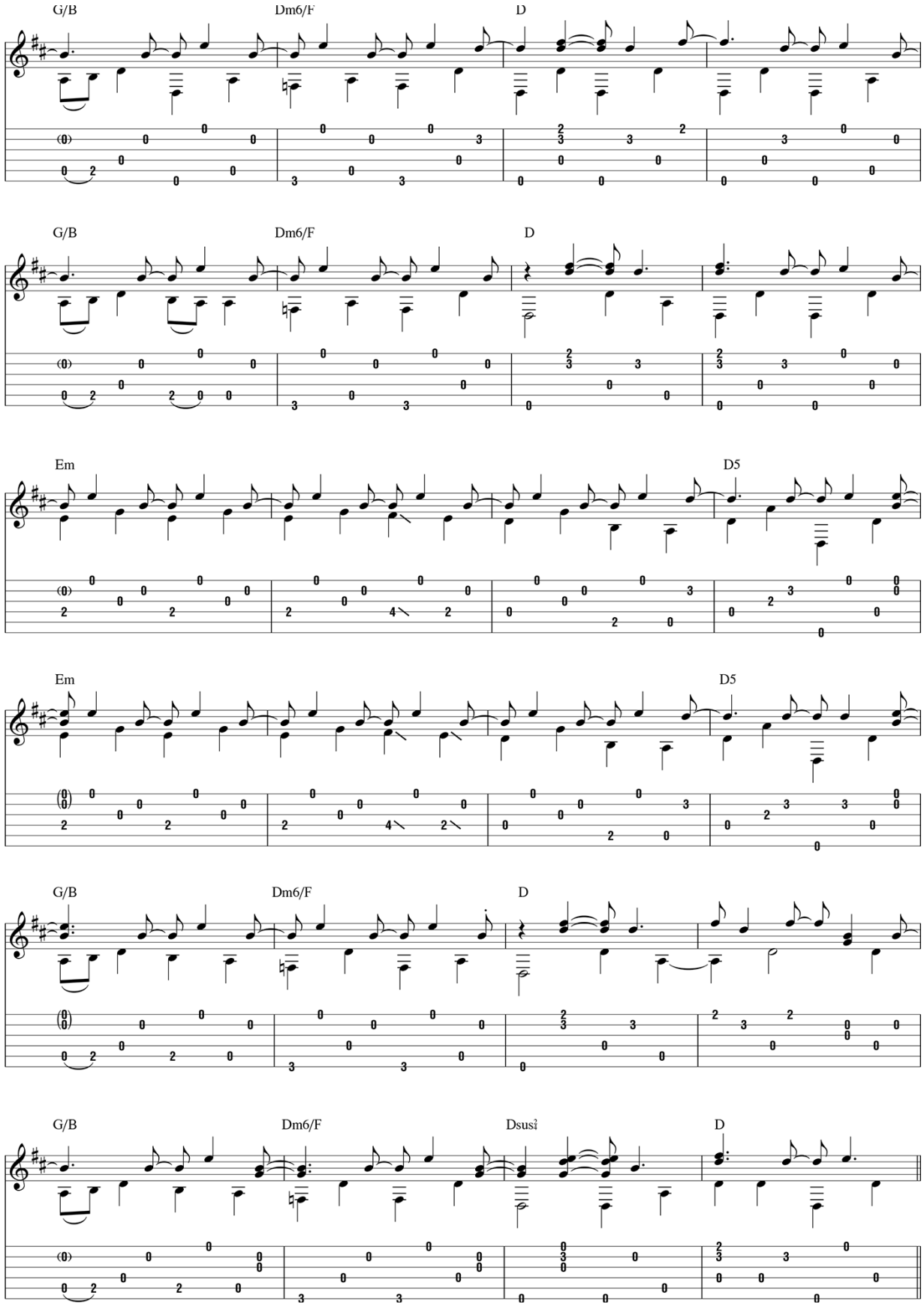


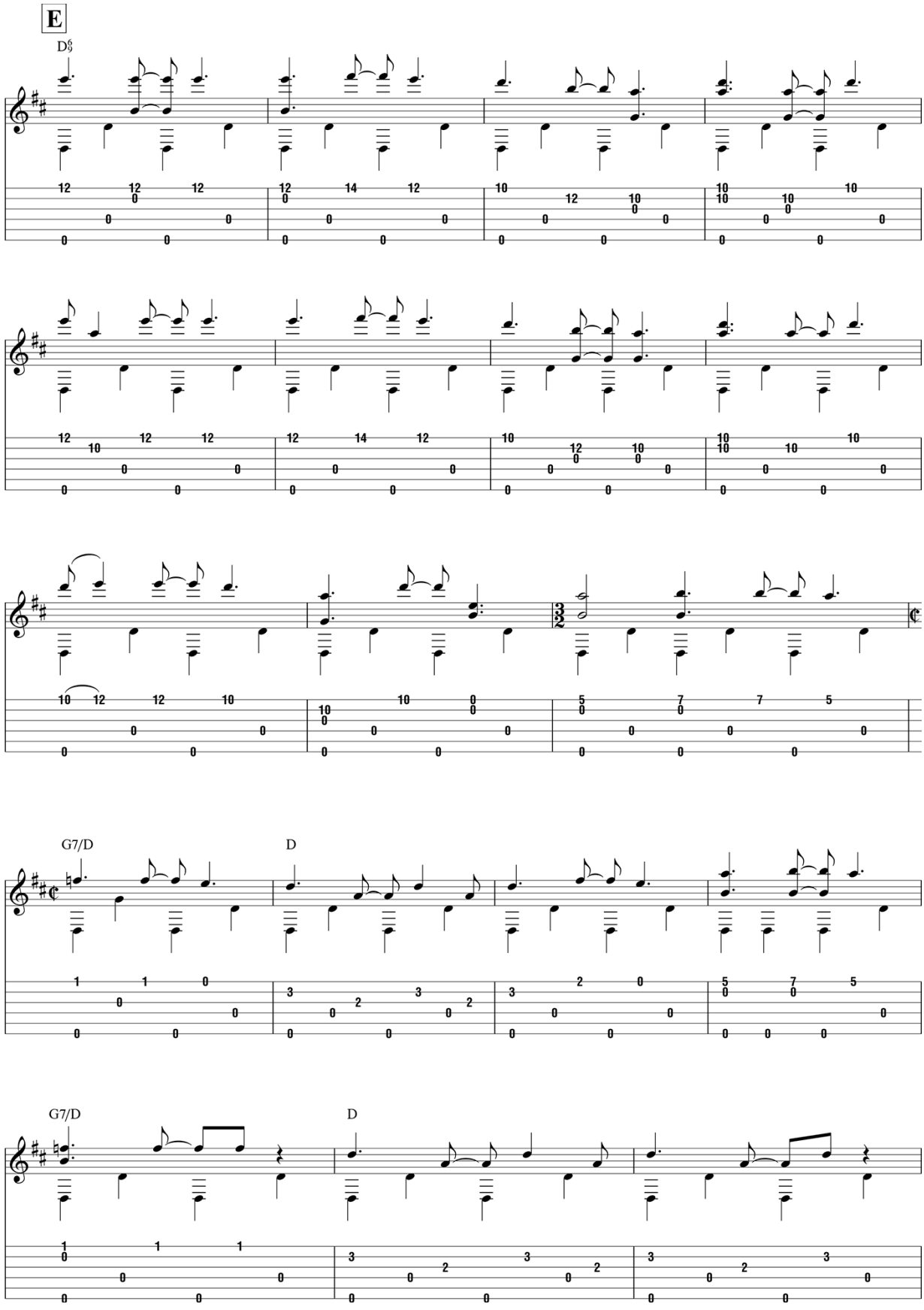
D

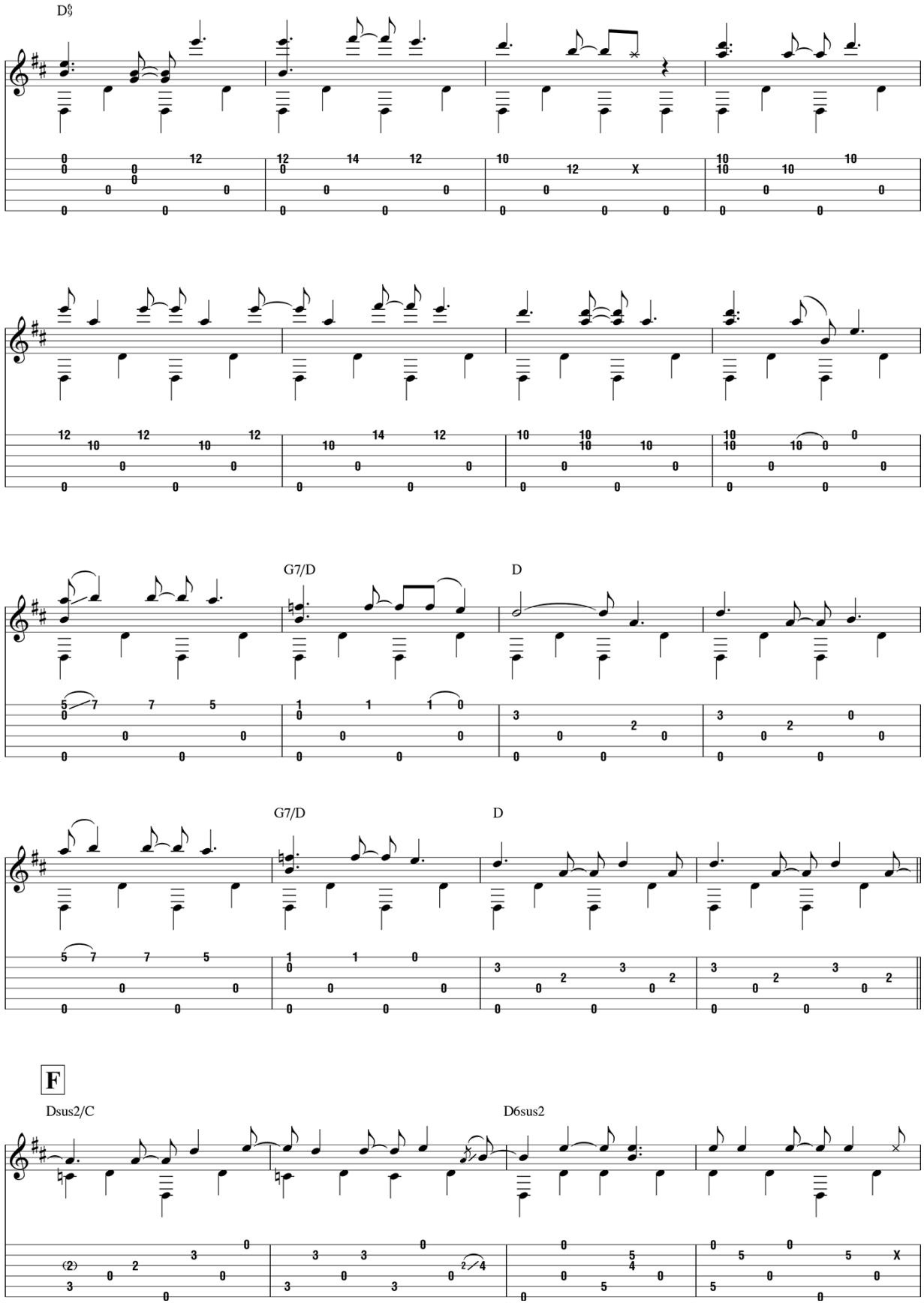


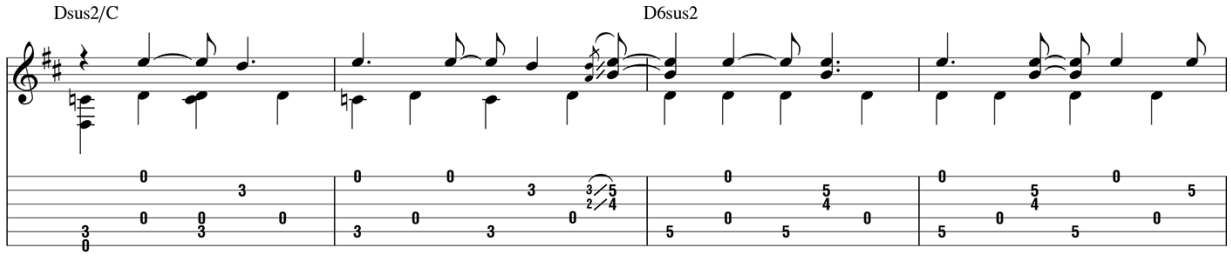


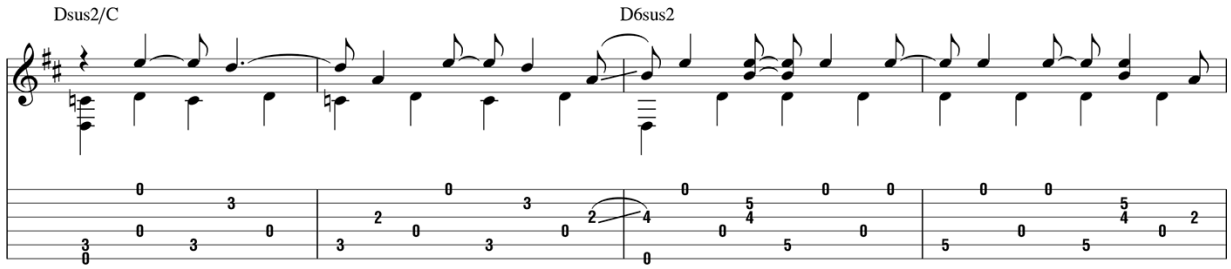

Em
Dm6/F
D♯(no 3rd)
Dm6/F
D♯sus4
Em
G6
D
Em
G6
D5

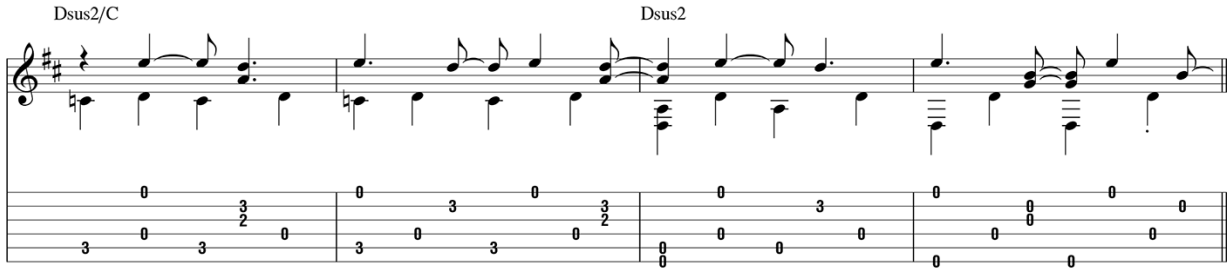

G/B
Dm6/F
D
G/B
Dm6/F
D
Em
D5
Em
D5
G/B
Dm6/F
D
G/B
Dm6/F
Dsus4
D

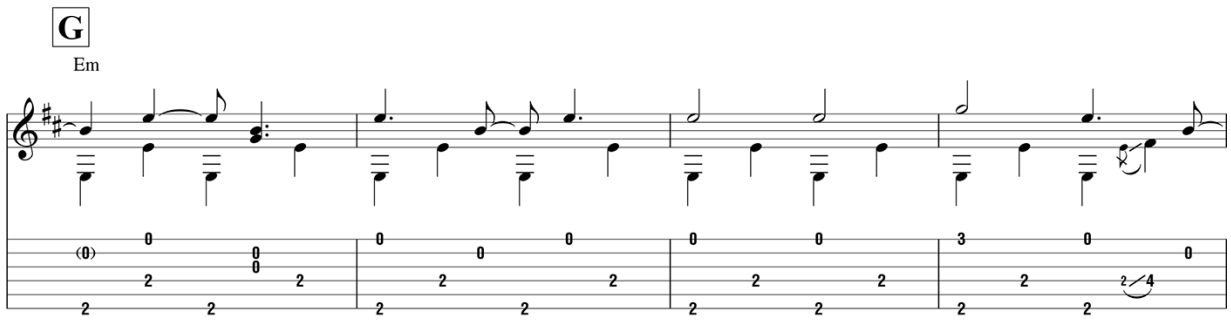

E
D$
G7/D
D
G7/D
D

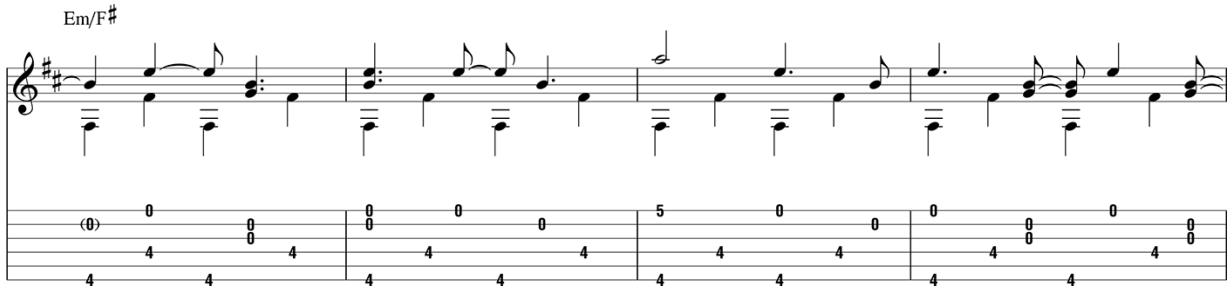

D$
G7/D
D
G7/D
D
F
Dsus2/C
D6sus2

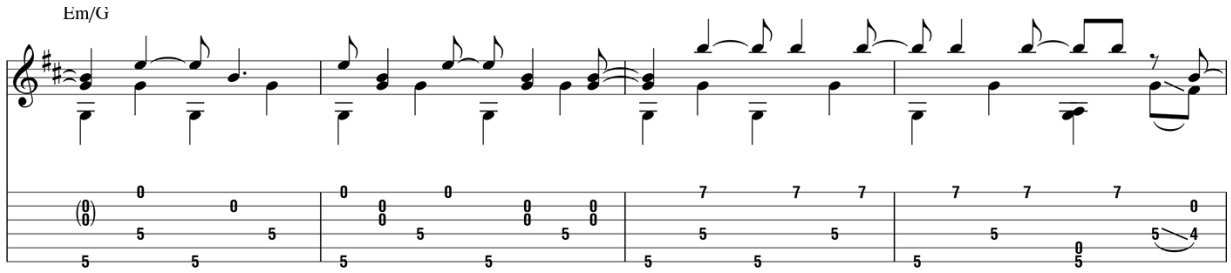

Dsus2/C
D6sus2

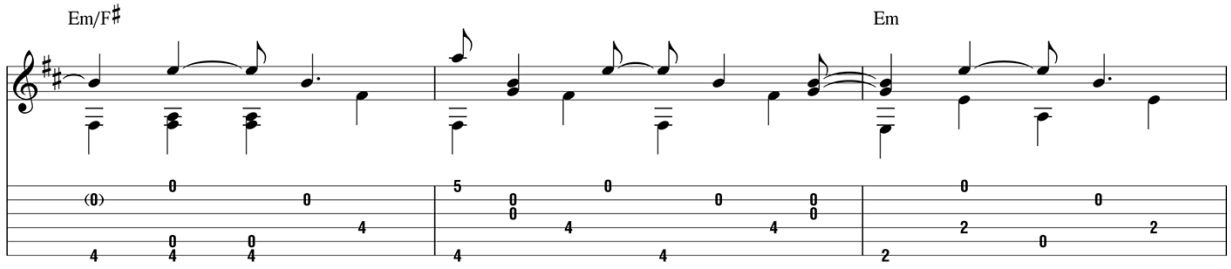

Dsus2/C
D6sus2

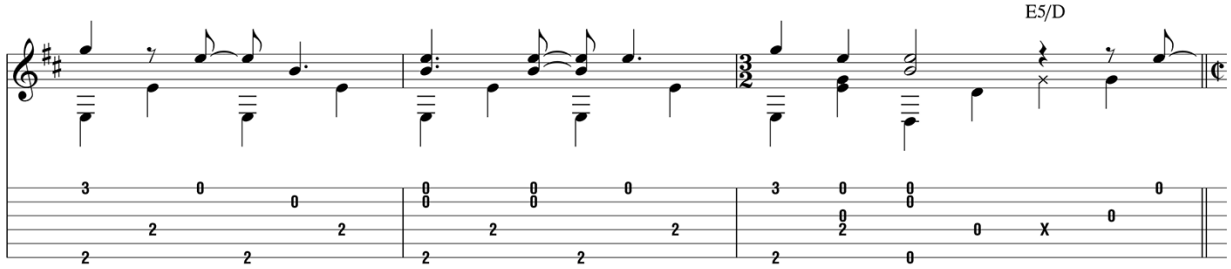

Dsus2/C
Dsus2


G
Em

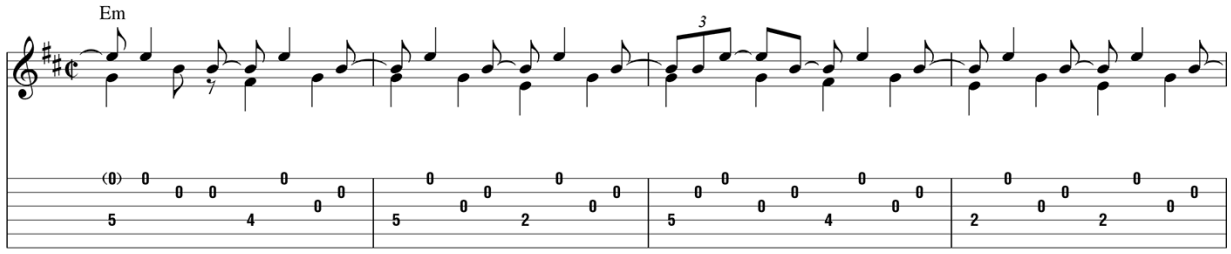

Em/F♯

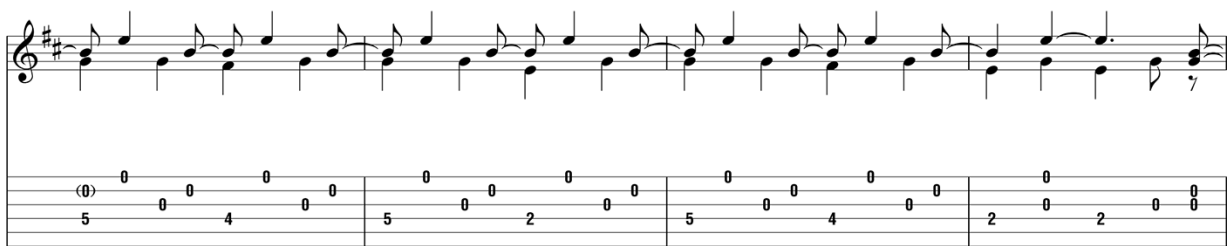


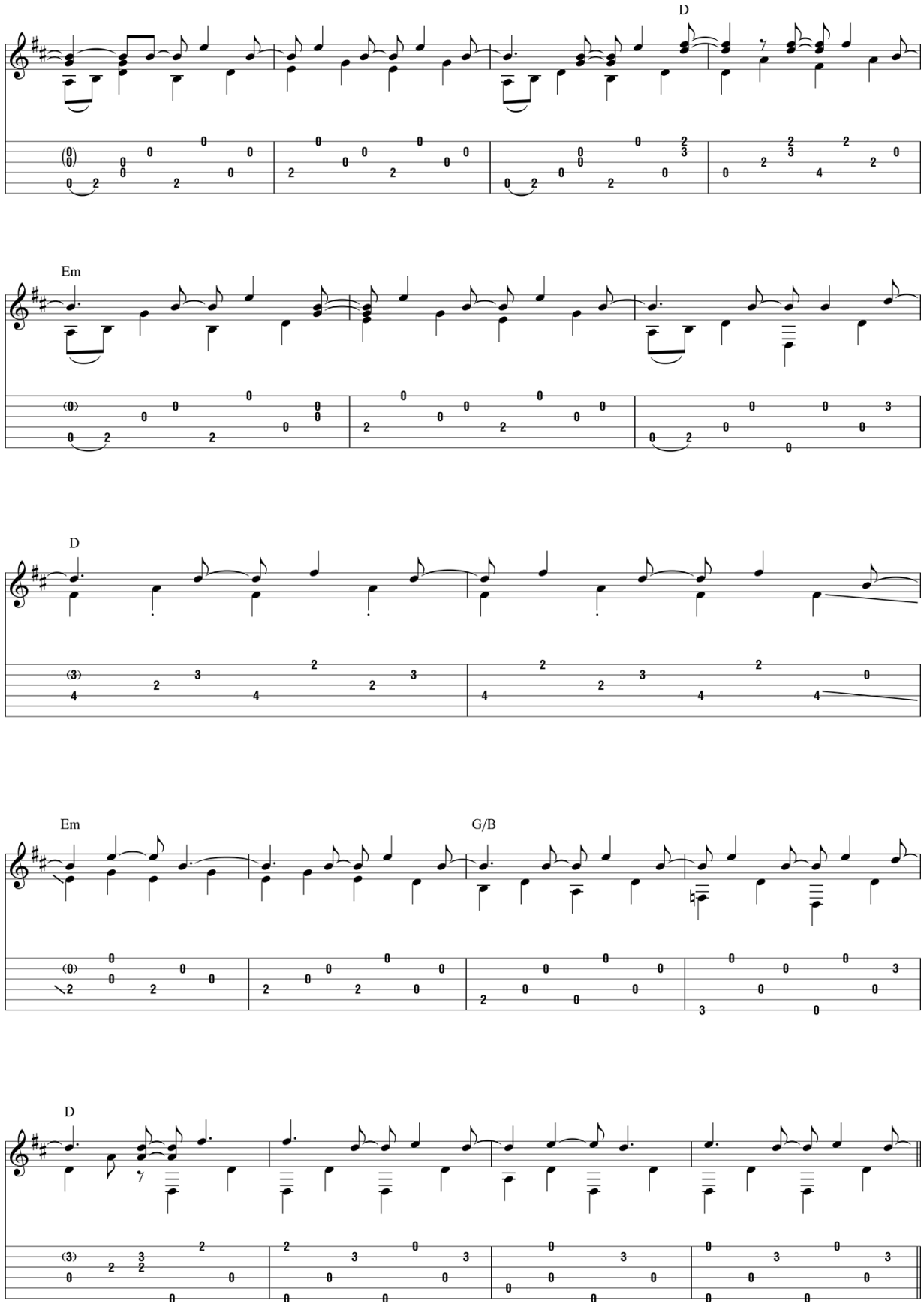




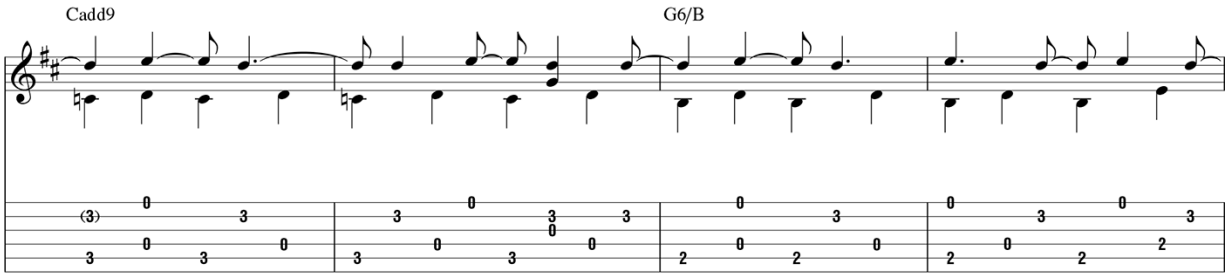
H

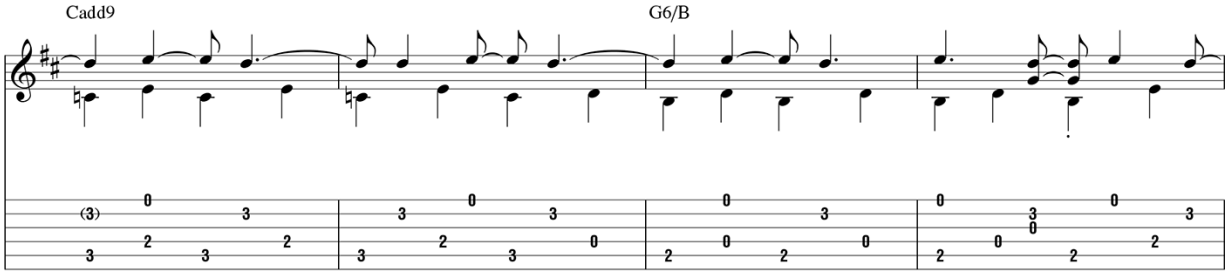


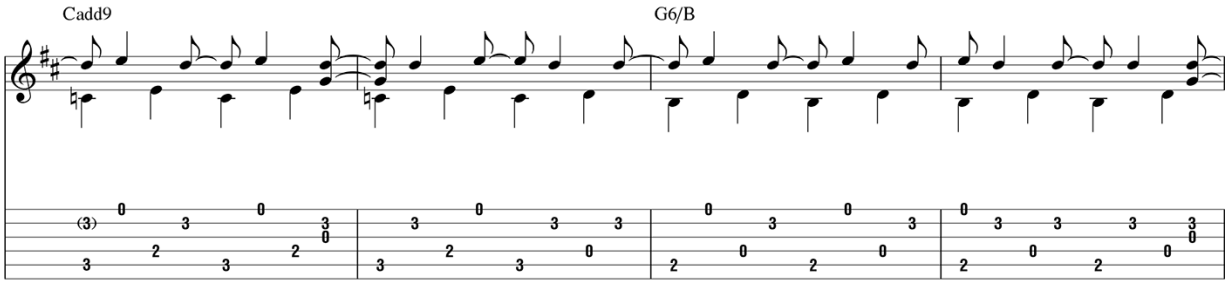


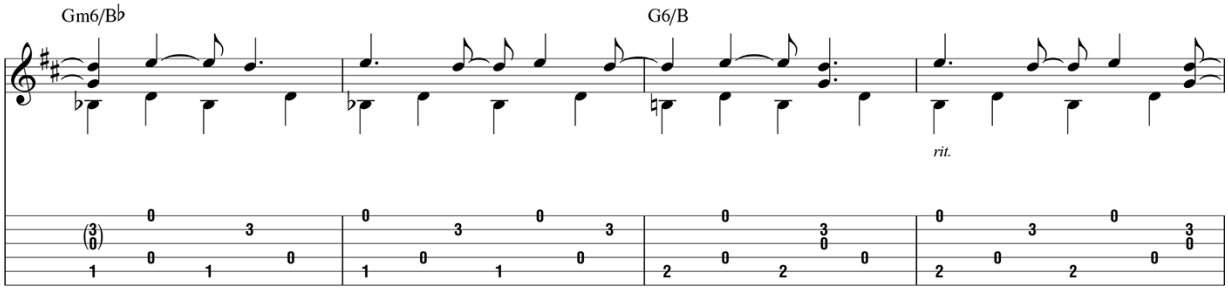

D
Em
D
Em
G/B
D

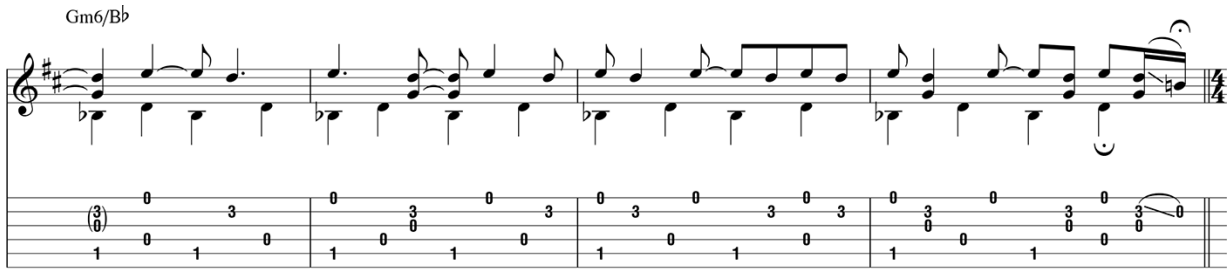
I





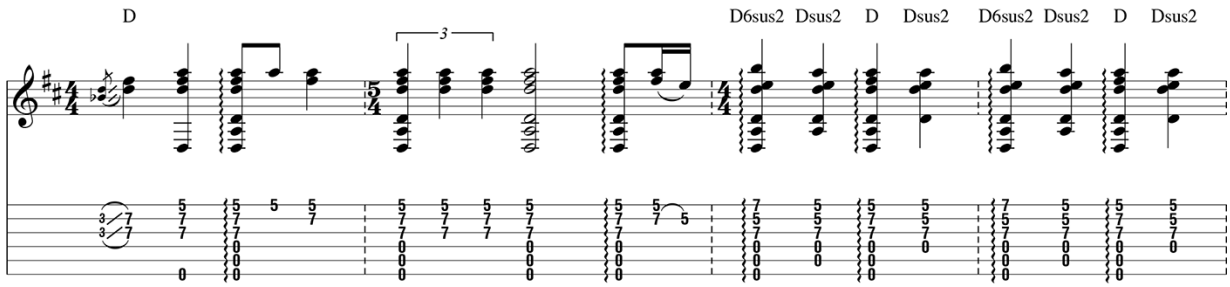


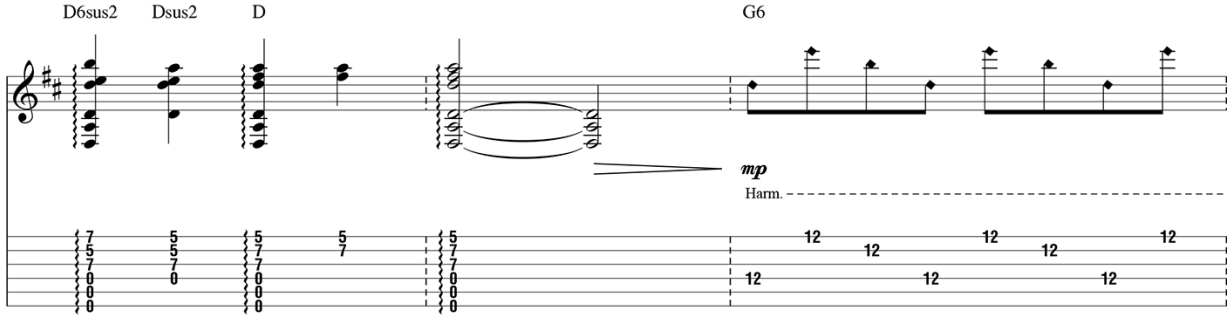


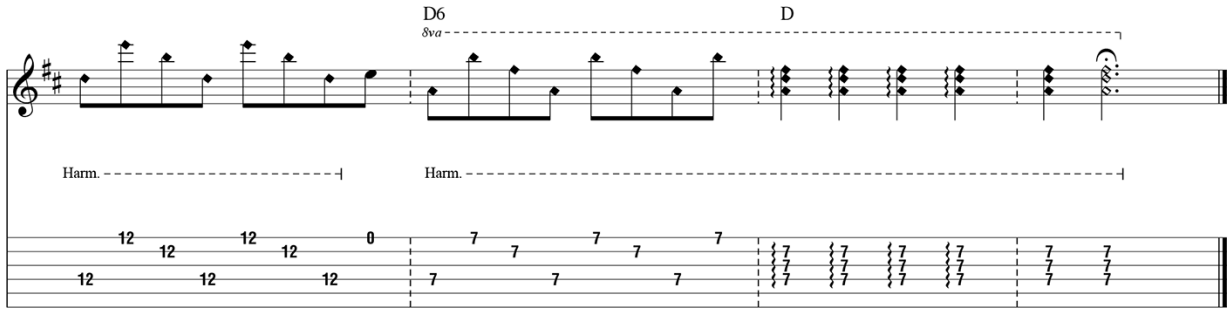

Gm6/B♭

J

Free time


D
D6sus2 Dsus2 D Dsus2 D6sus2 Dsus2 D Dsus2

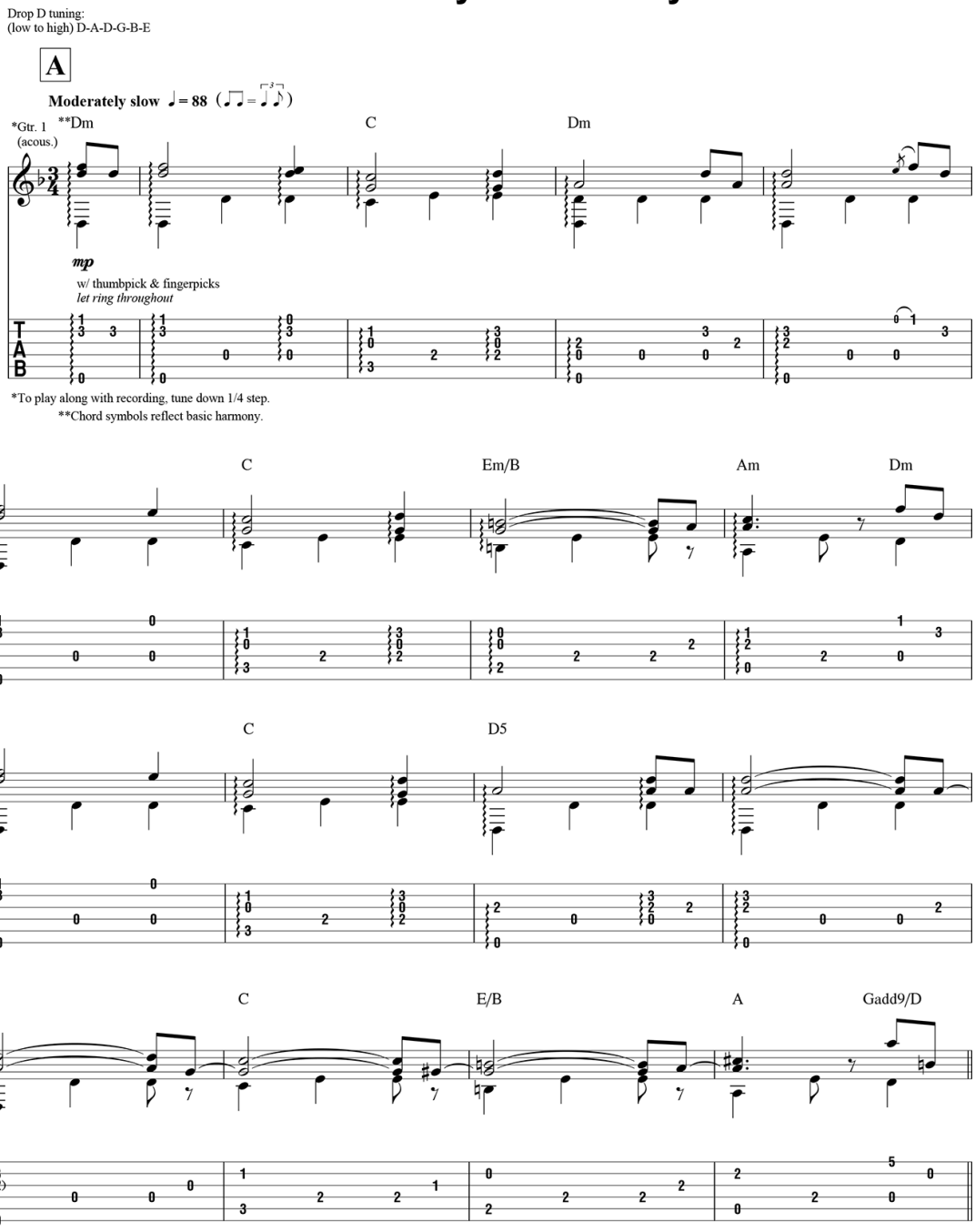

D6sus2 Dsus2 D
G6
mp
Harm.


D6
8va
D
Harm.
Harm.

from *Death Chants, Breakdowns & Military Waltzes*

When The Springtime Comes Again

Written by John Fahey



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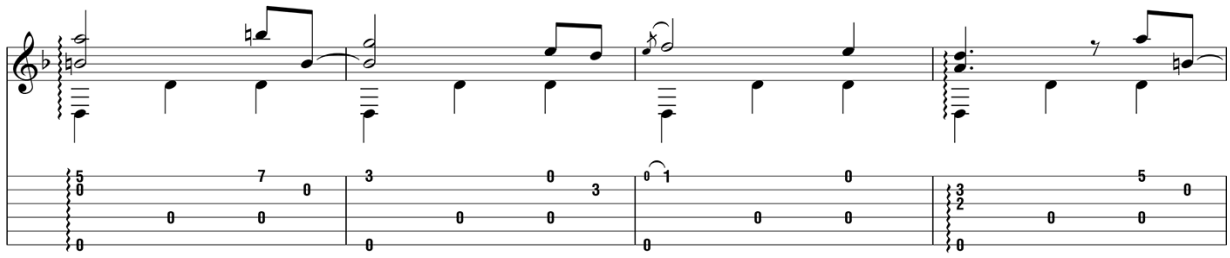
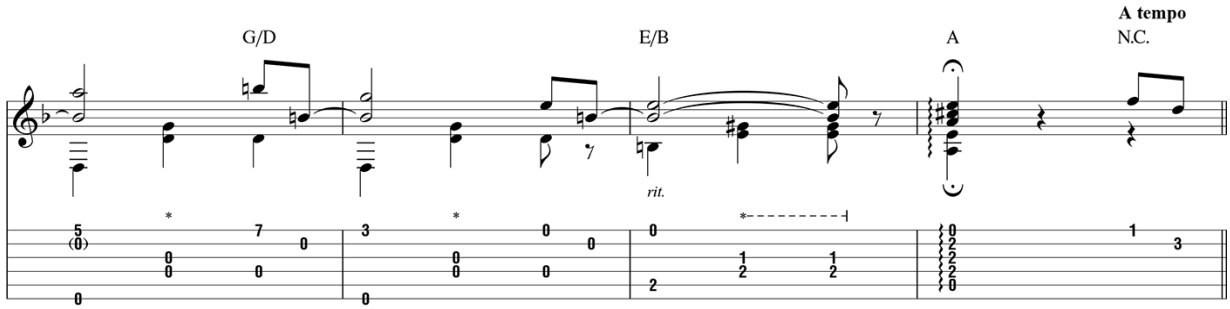
B

Gadd9/D G/D Dm Gadd9/D



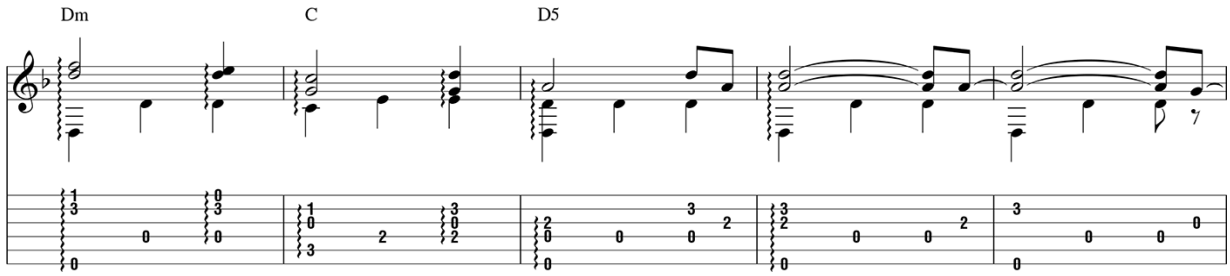
G/D E/B A **A tempo** N.C.



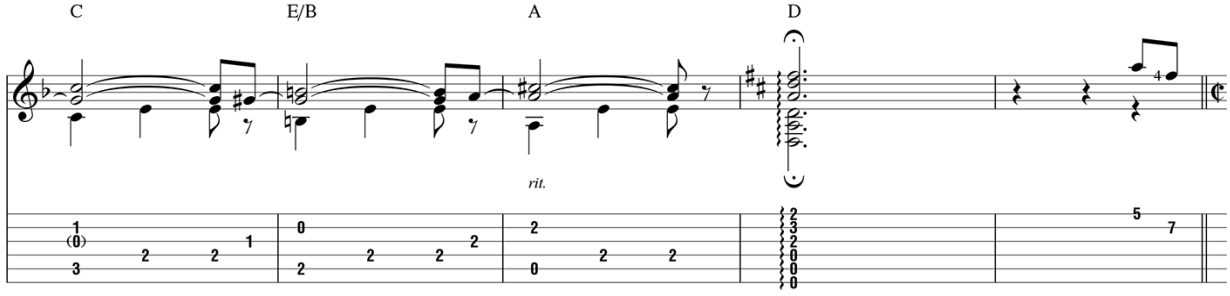
*Both downstemmed notes plucked w/ thumb.

C

Dm C D5



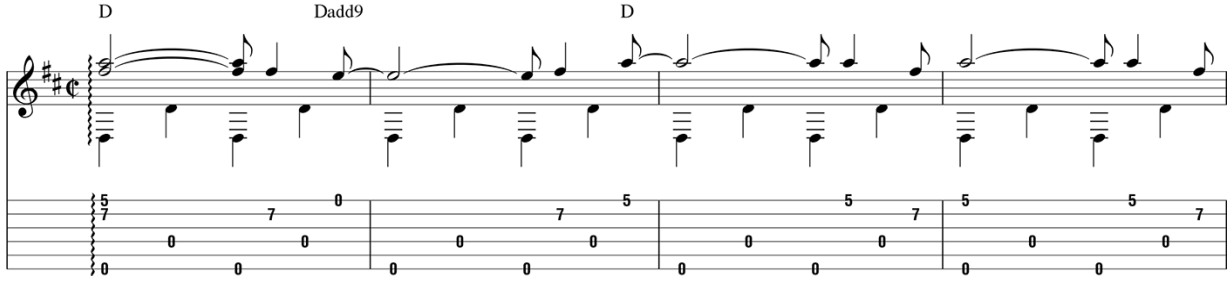
C E/B A **Freely** D

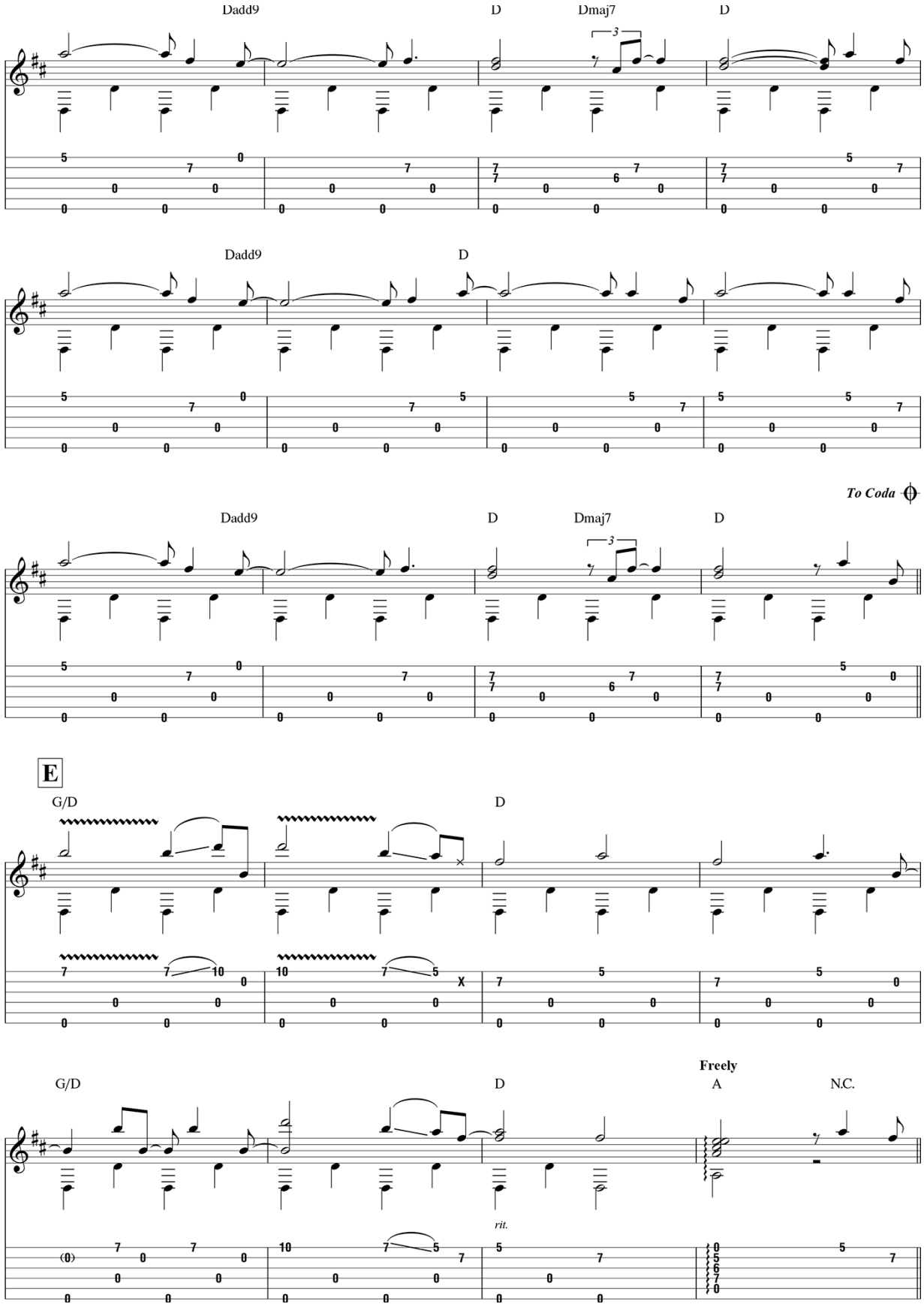


𝄋 D

Moderately ♩ = 100 (♫ = ♫)

D Dadd9 D

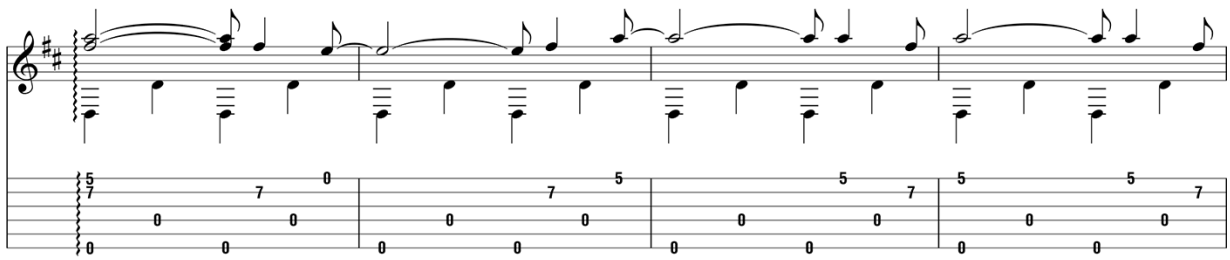



Dadd9
D
Dmaj7
D
Dadd9
D
To Coda
Dadd9
D
Dmaj7
D
E
G/D
D
G/D
D
Freely
A
N.C.
rit.

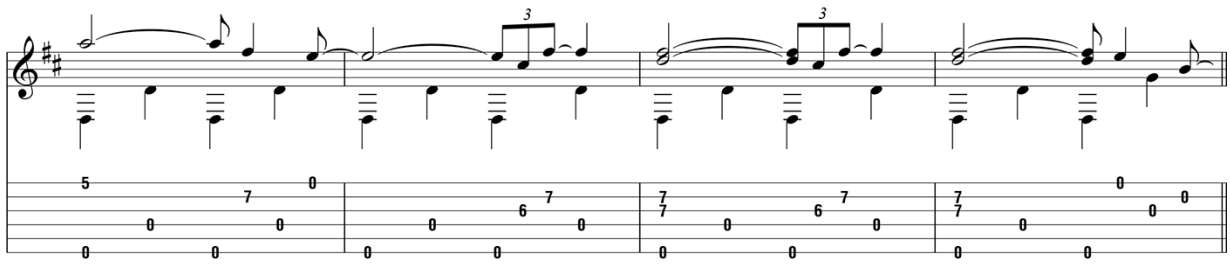
F

A tempo

D Dadd9 D

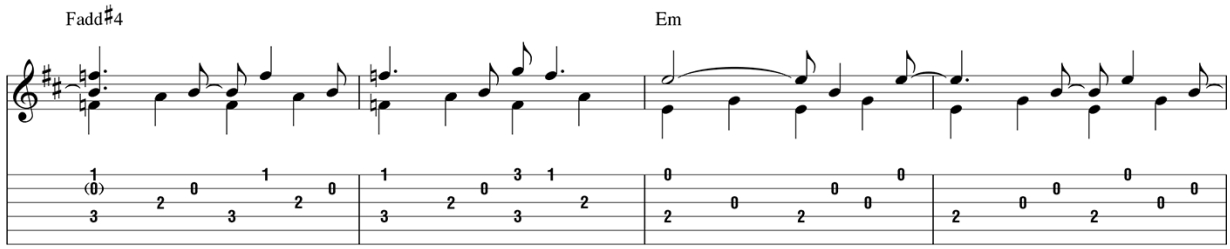


Dadd9 Dmaj7 D Dmaj7 D N.C.

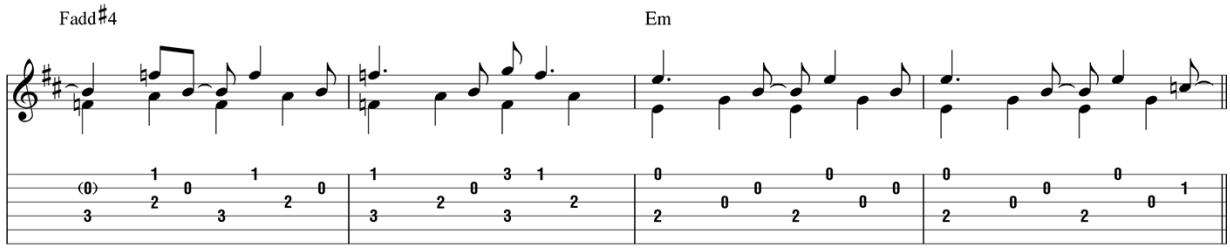


G

Fadd♯4 Em

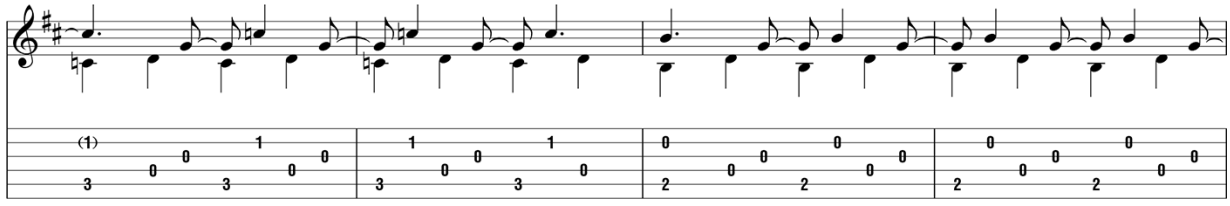


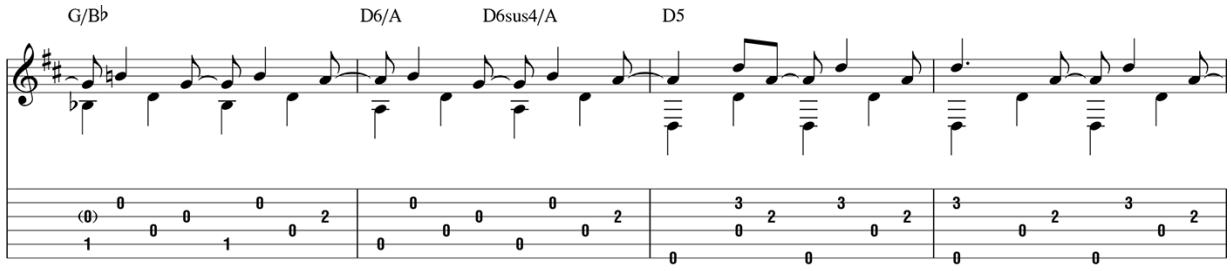
Fadd♯4 Em

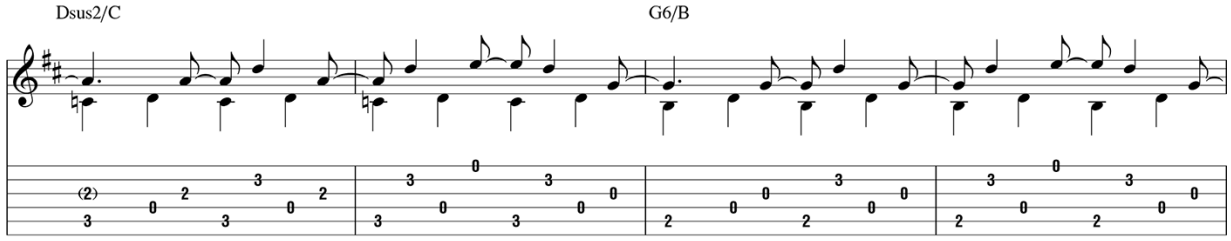


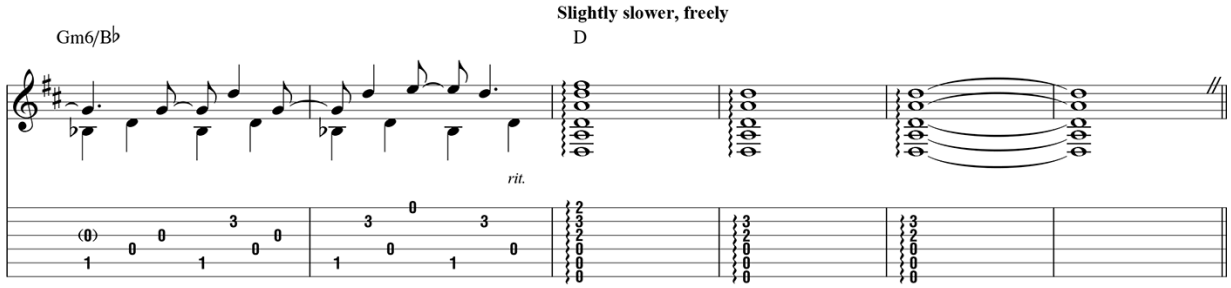
H

Csus2 G/B



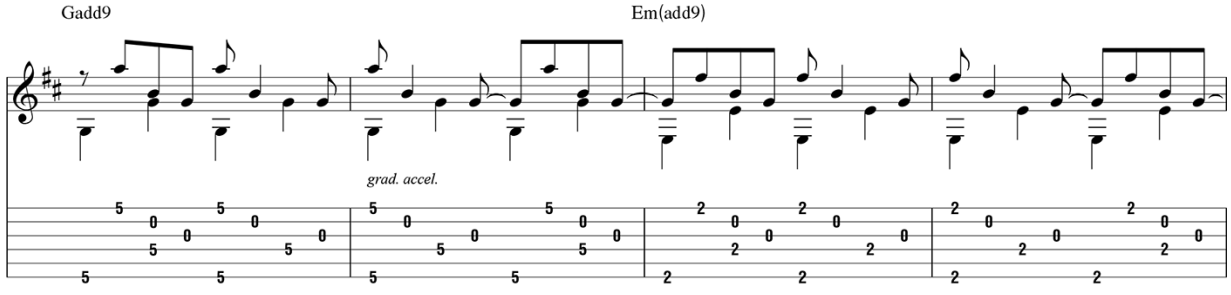


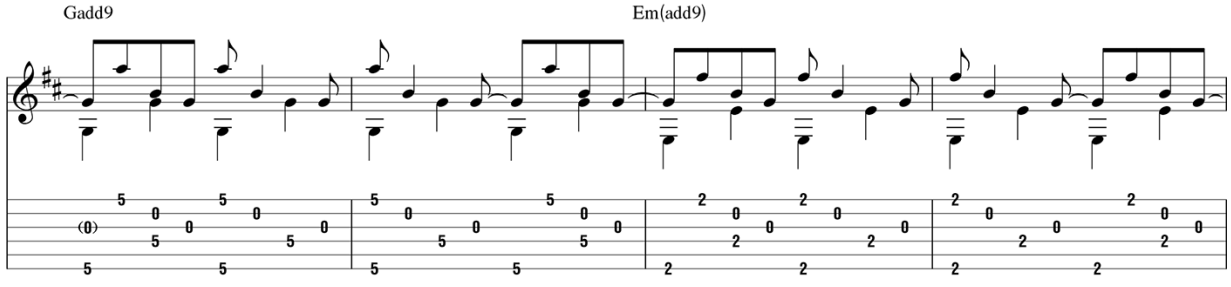




I

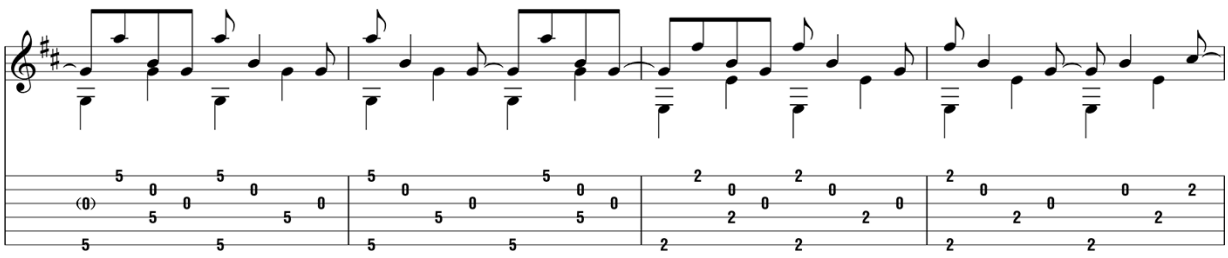
Moderately slow ♩ = 96



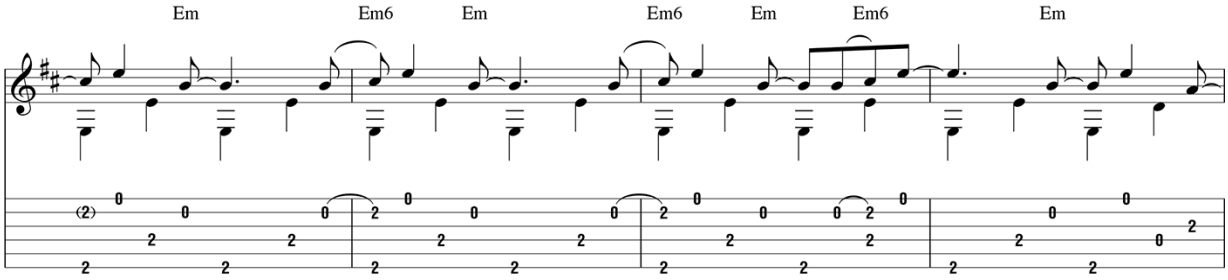


Tempo II

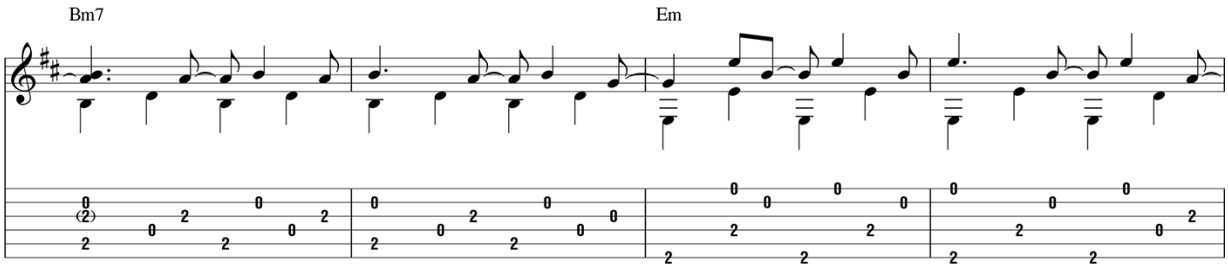
Gadd9 Em(add9) Em6



Em Em6 Em Em6 Em Em6 Em



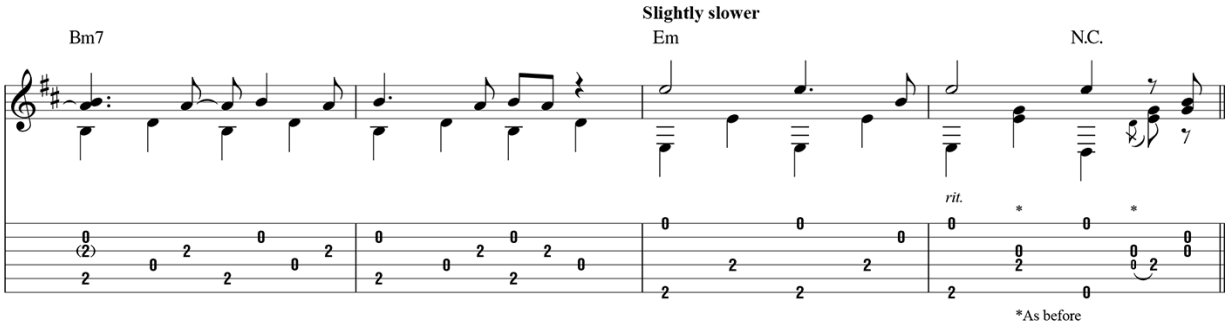
Bm7 Em



Slightly slower

Bm7 Em N.C.

rit.



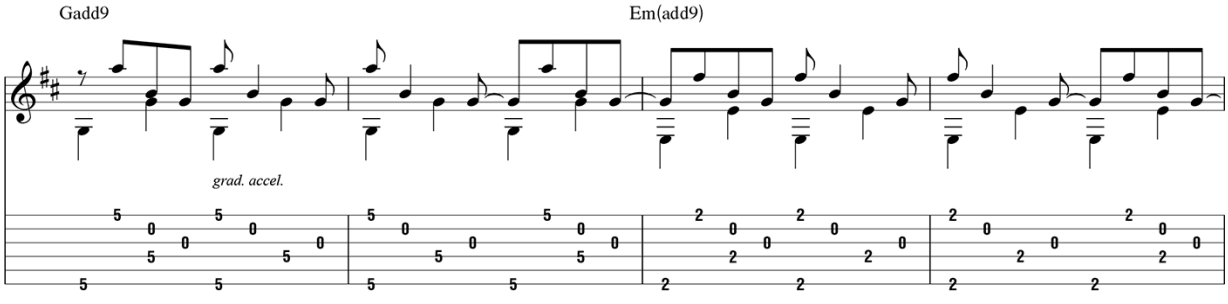
*As before

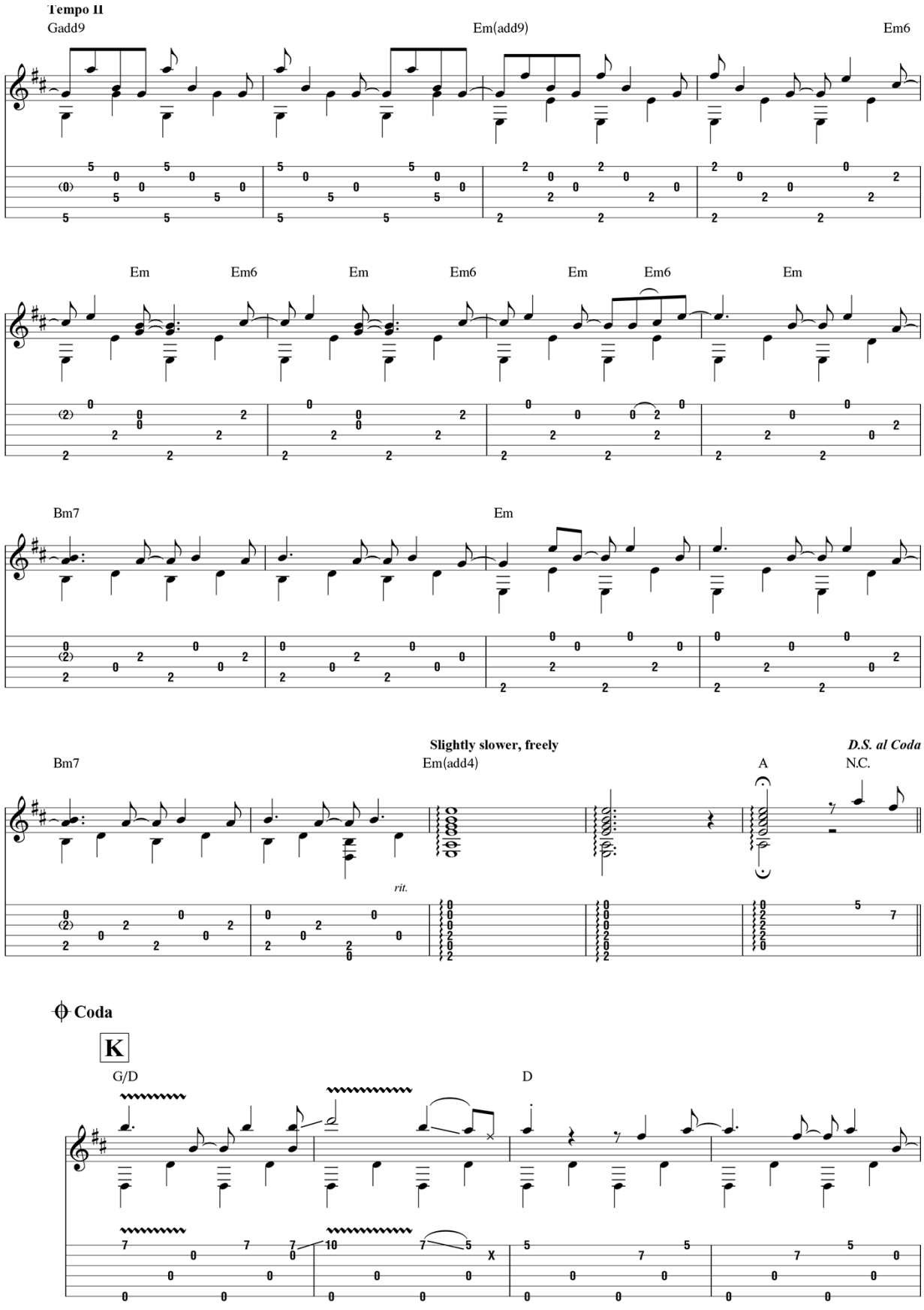
J

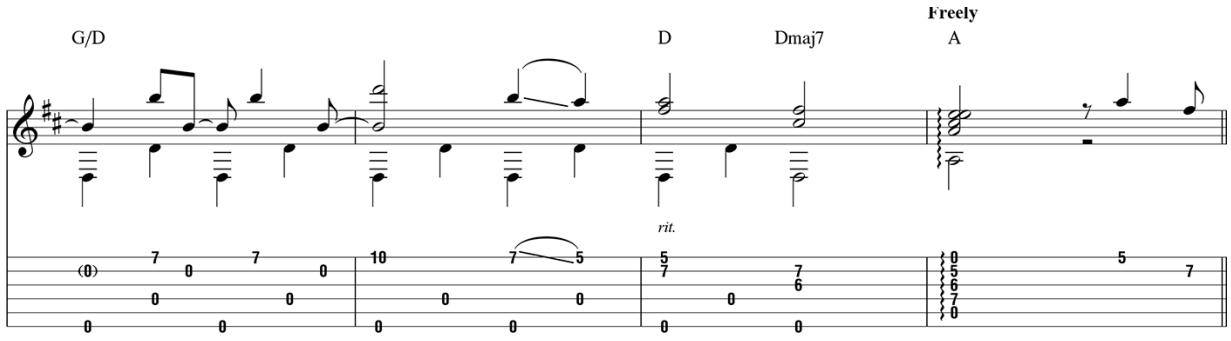
Tempo III

Gadd9 Em(add9)

grad. accel.

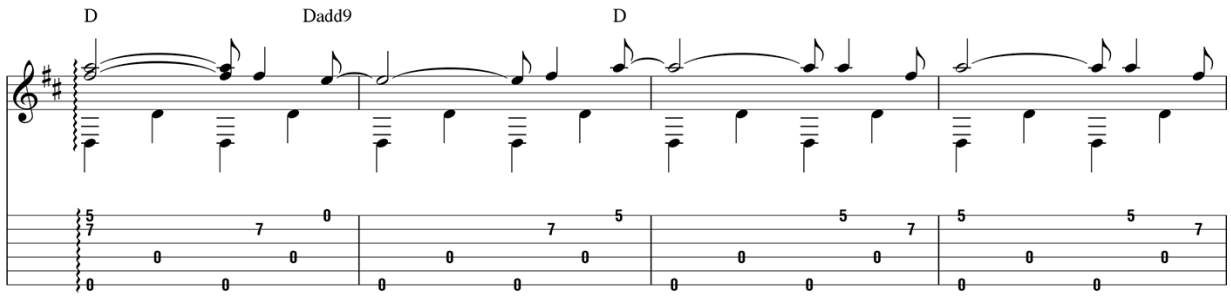


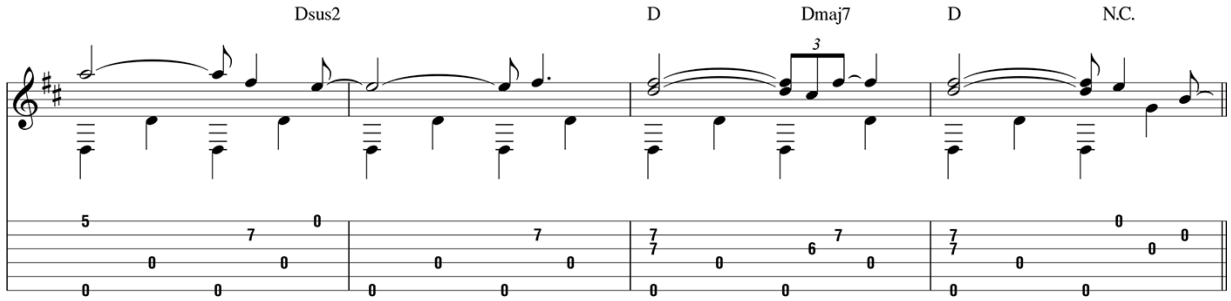

Tempo II
Gadd9
Em(add9)
Em6
Em
Em6
Em
Em6
Em
Em6
Em
Bm7
Em
Slightly slower, freely
D.S. al Coda
Bm7
Em(add4)
A
N.C.
rit.
Coda
K
G/D
D


G/D
D
Dmaj7
Freely
A
rit.

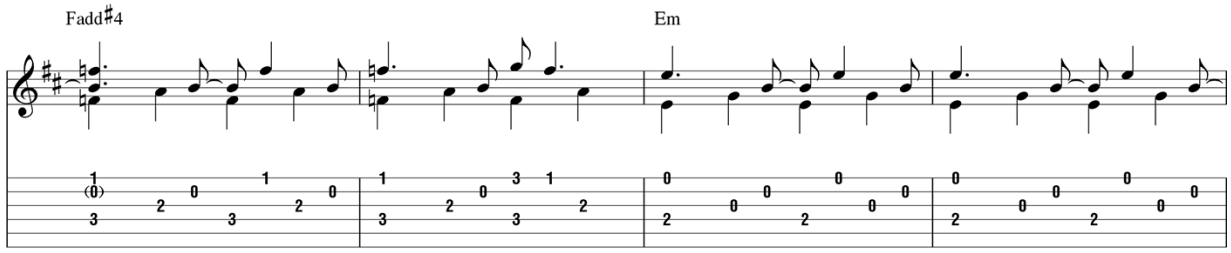
L

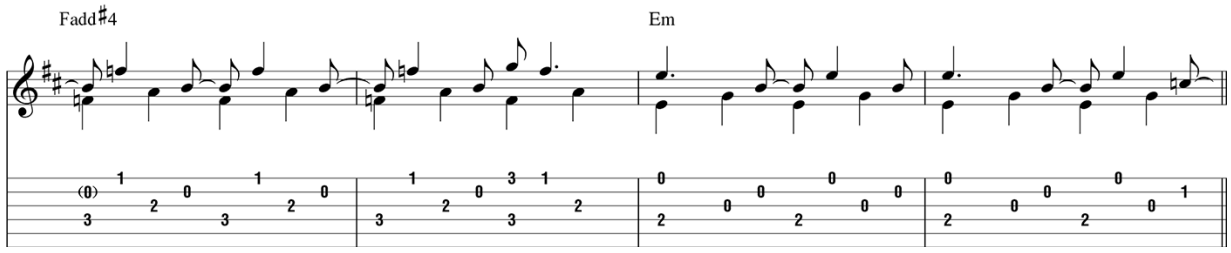
Tempo II

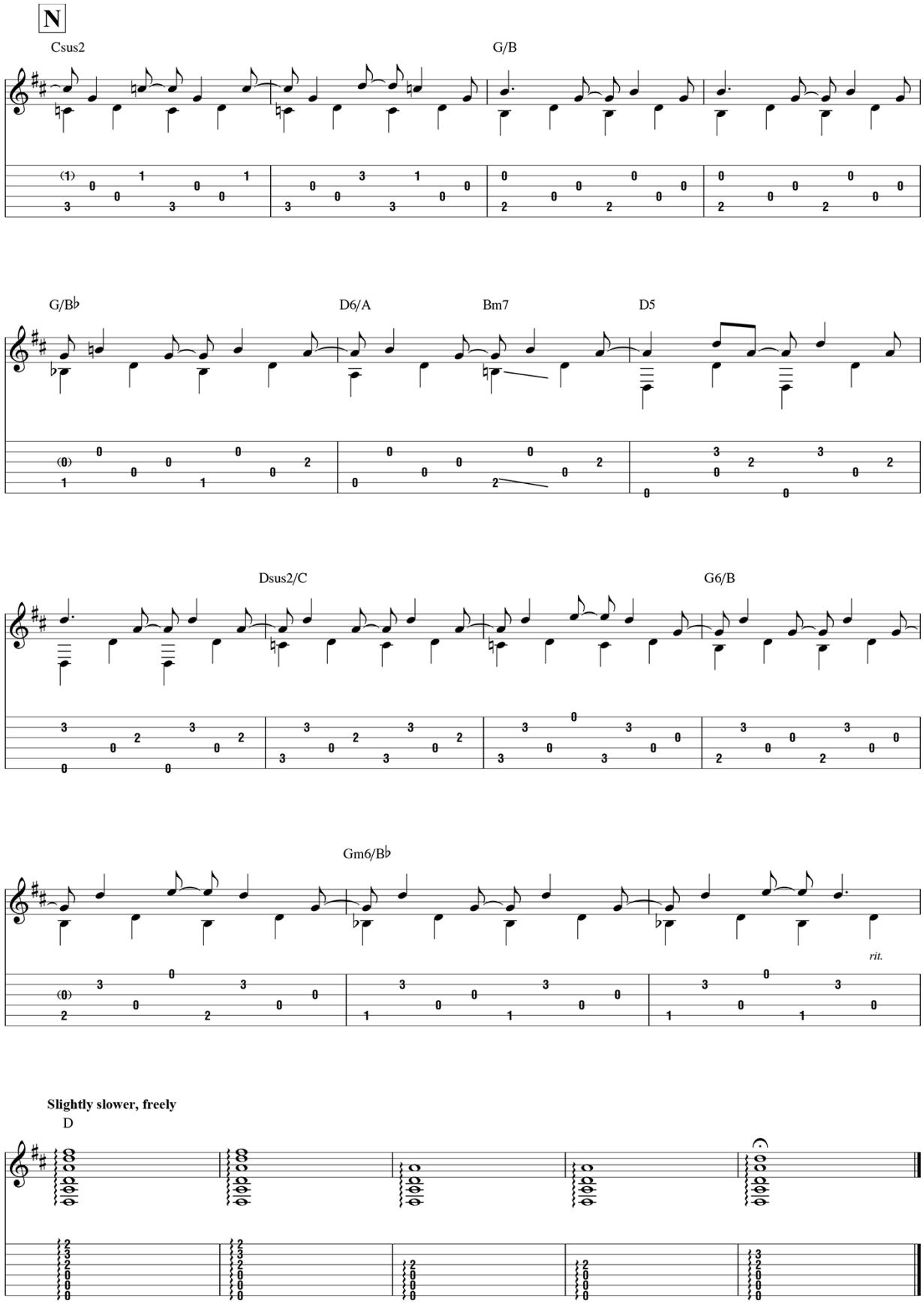

D
Dadd9
D


Dsus2
D
Dmaj7
D
N.C.
3

M


Fadd♯4
Em

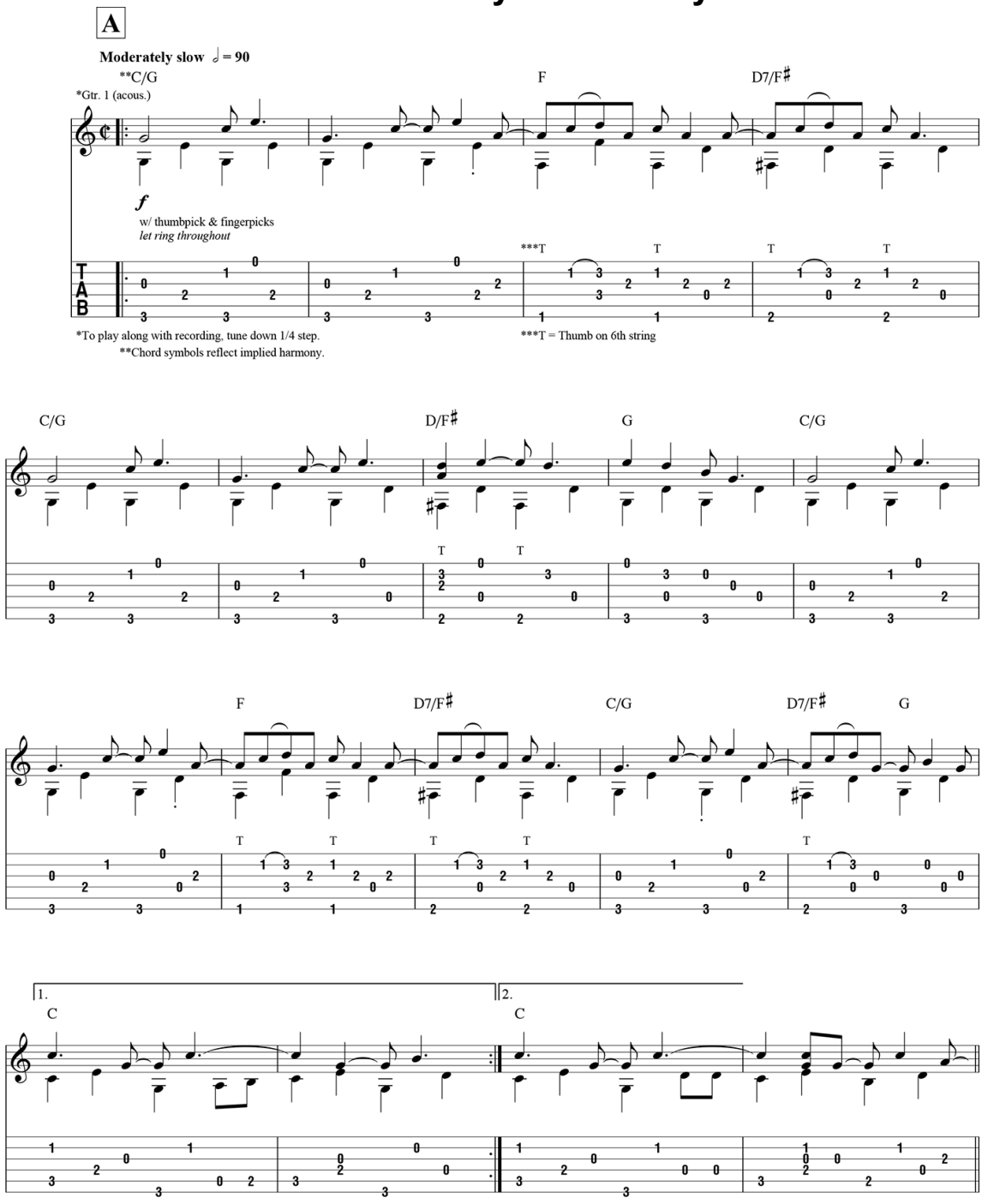

Fadd♯4
Em


N
Csus2
G/B
G/B♭
D6/A
Bm7
D5
Dsus2/C
G6/B
Gm6/B♭
rit.
Slightly slower, freely
D

from *Old Fashioned Love*

The Assassination Of Stephan Grossman

Written by John Fahey



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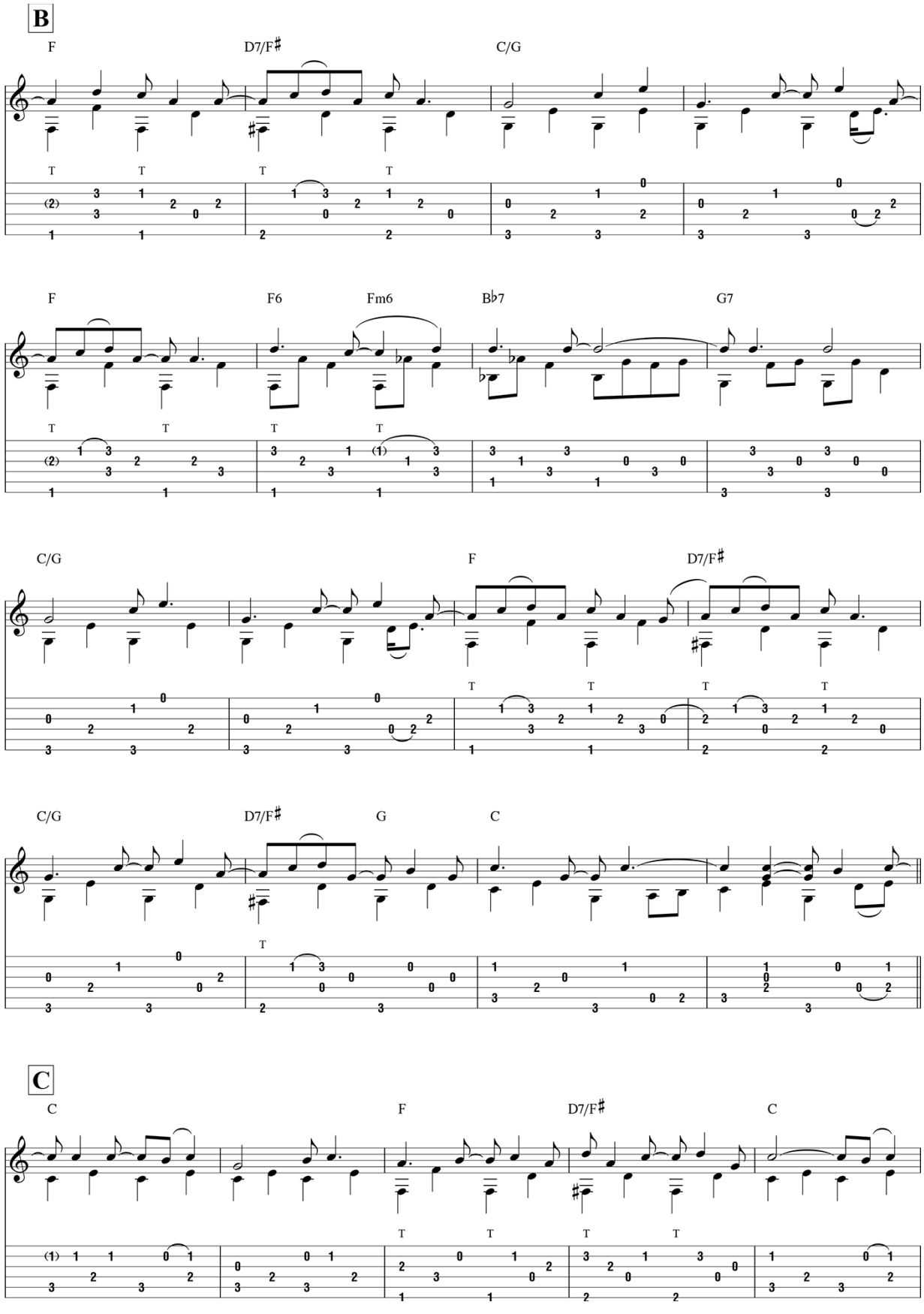
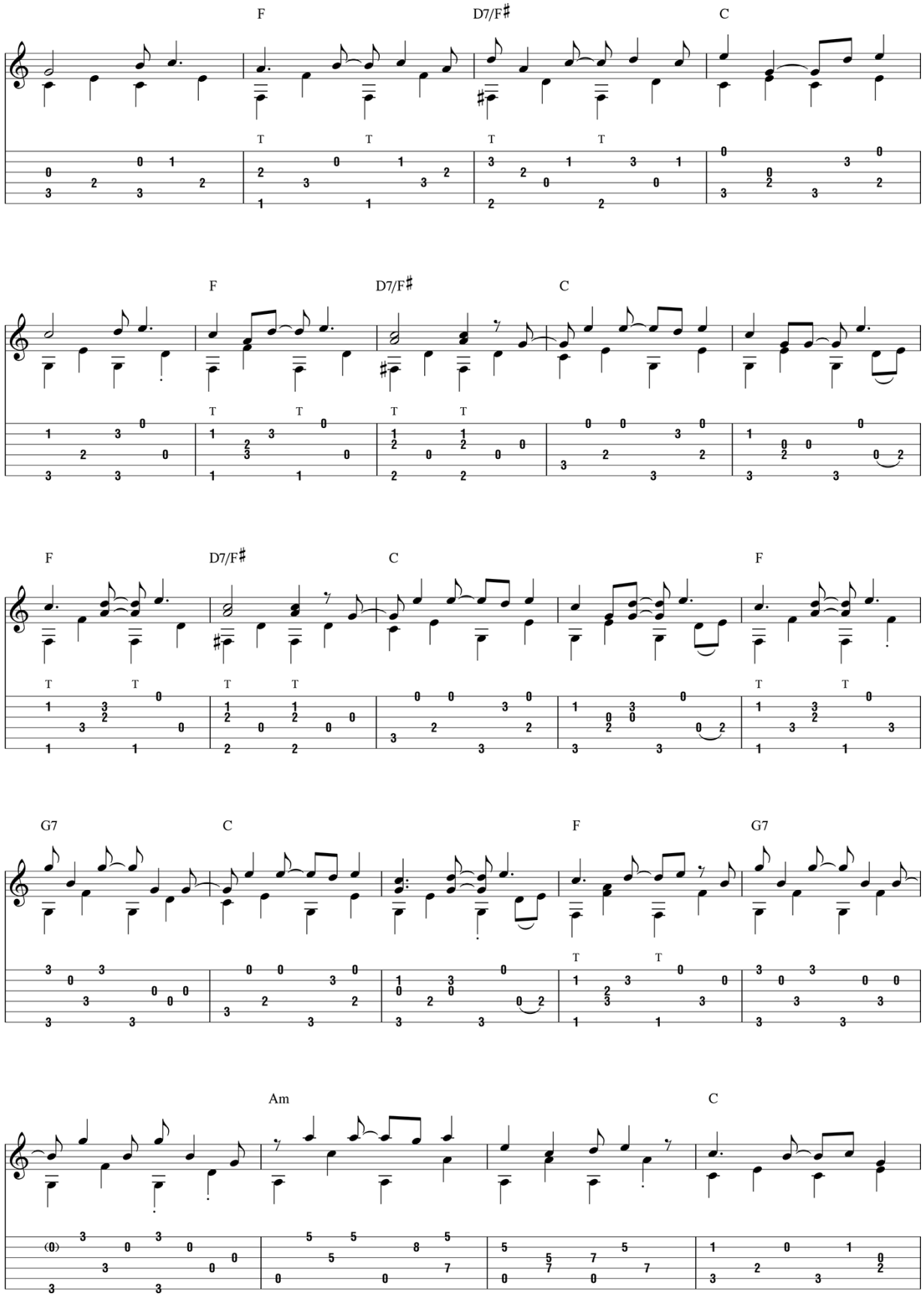
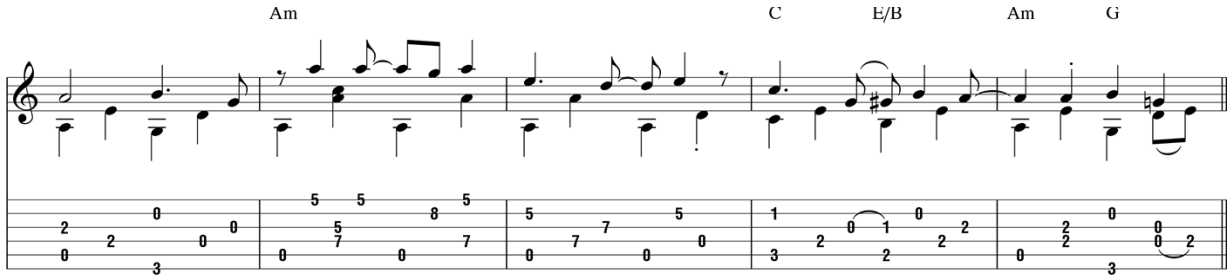
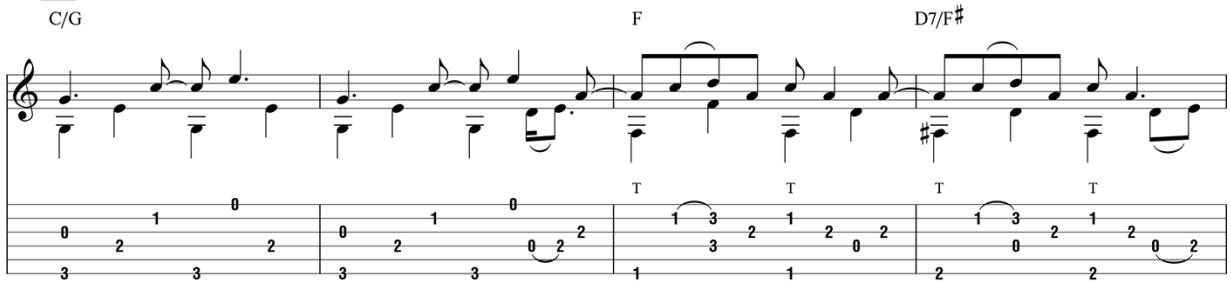
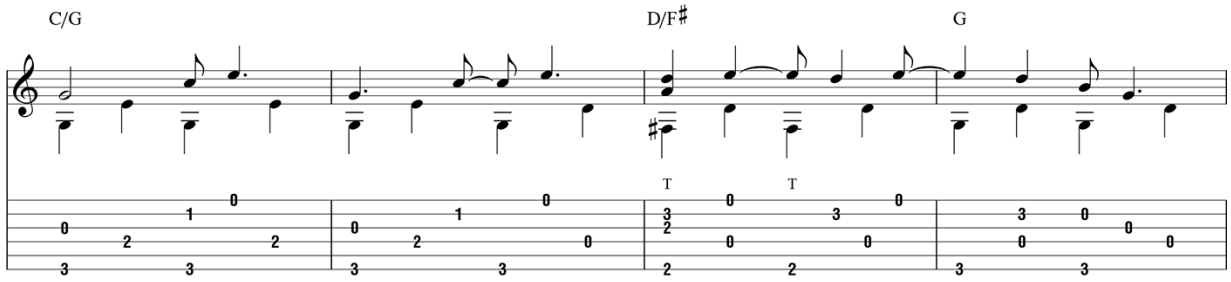

B
F
D7/F♯
C/G
F
F6
Fm6
B♭7
G7
C/G
F
D7/F♯
C/G
D7/F♯
G
C
C
C
F
D7/F♯
C

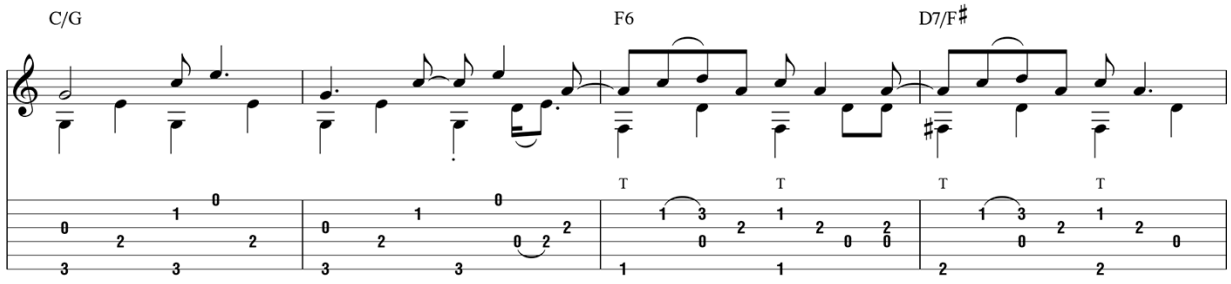

F
D7/F♯
C
F
D7/F♯
C
F
D7/F♯
C
F
G7
C
F
G7
Am
C

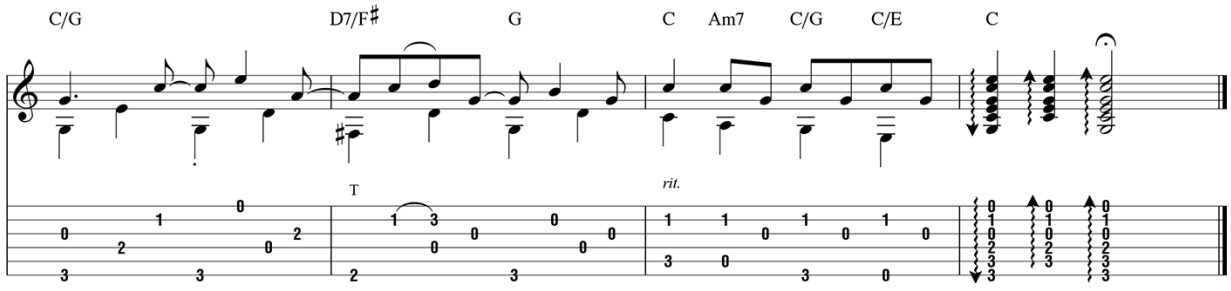


D





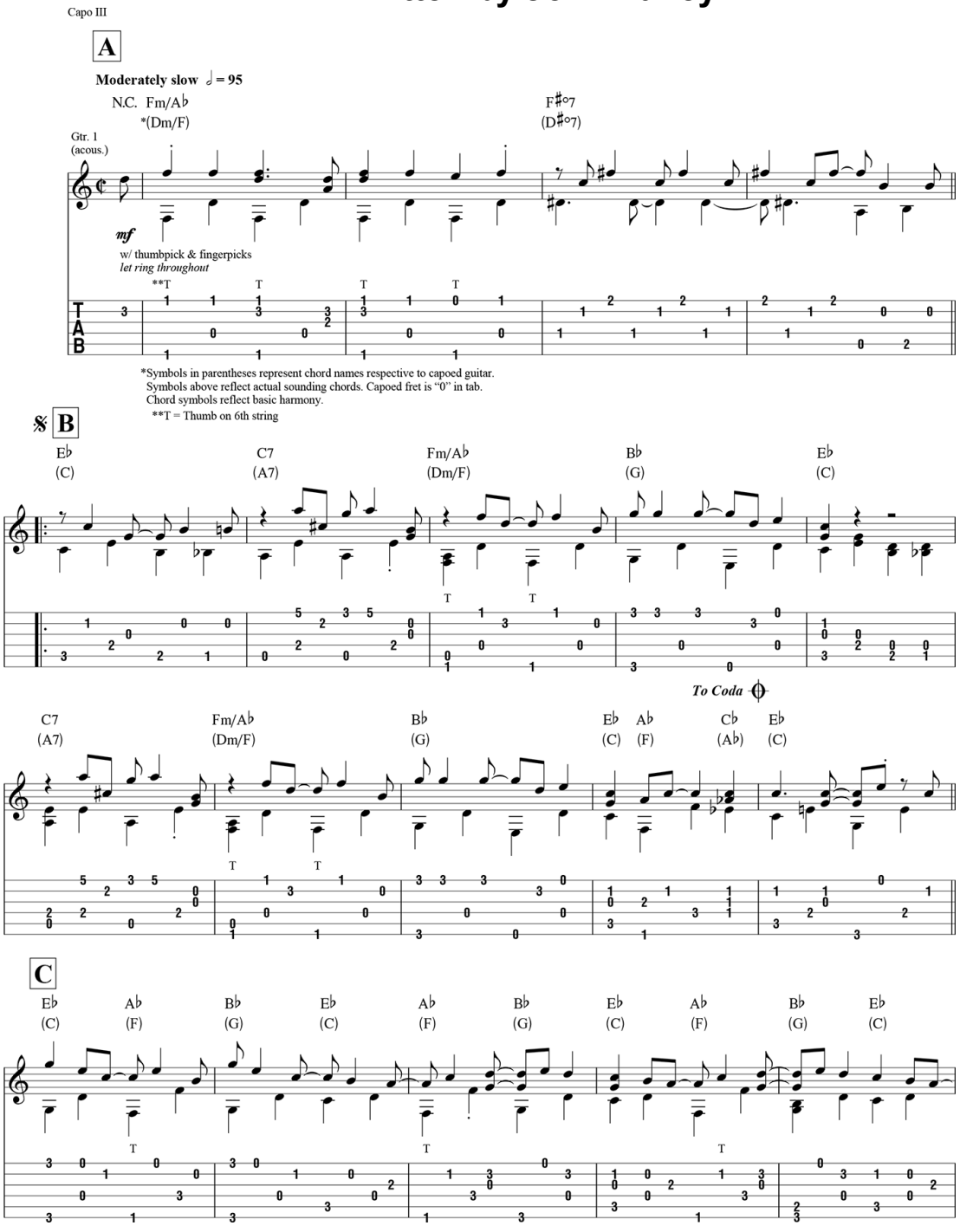




from *The Transfiguration of Blind Joe Death*

Brenda's Blues

Written by John Fahey



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A♭ B♭ E♭ A♭ B♭ E♭ A♭ B♭ E♭ A♭
(F) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C) (F)

T T T T

(2)

2nd time, Gtr. 1: w/ Fill 1

B♭ E♭ A♭ B♭ E♭ A♭ B♭ E♭
(G) (C) (F) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C)

3

T T

(3)

A♭ B♭ E♭ A♭ B♭ E♭ A♭ B♭ E♭ B♭
(F) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C) (G)

T T T

(2)

2nd time, D.S. al Coda

Coda

Fm/A♭ F♯°7 E♭
(Dm/F) (D♯°7) (C)

T T T T

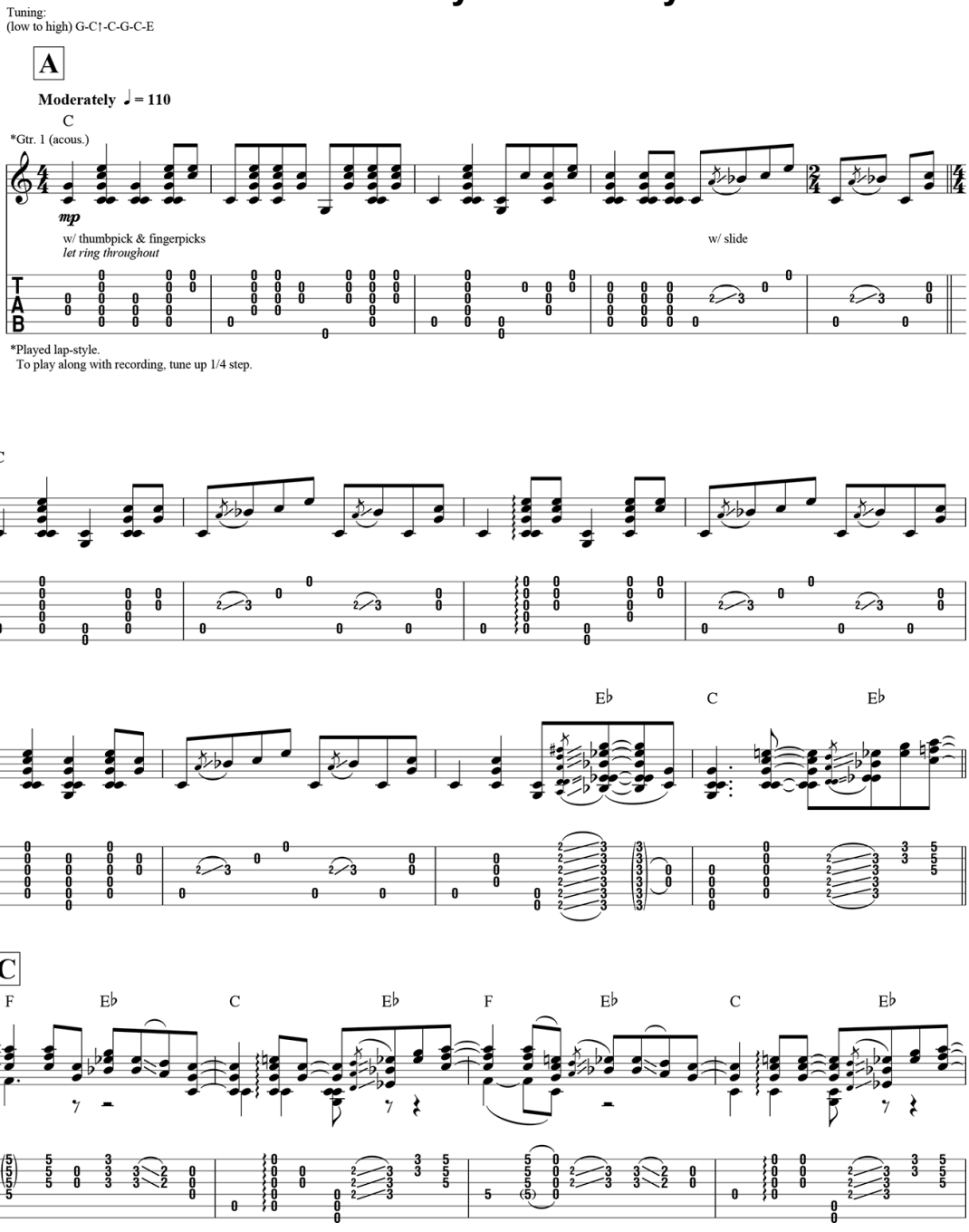
rit.

Fill 1
Gtr. 1

from *Death Chants, Breakdowns & Military Waltzes*

Dance Of The Inhabitants Of The Palace Of King Philip Of Spain

Written by John Fahey



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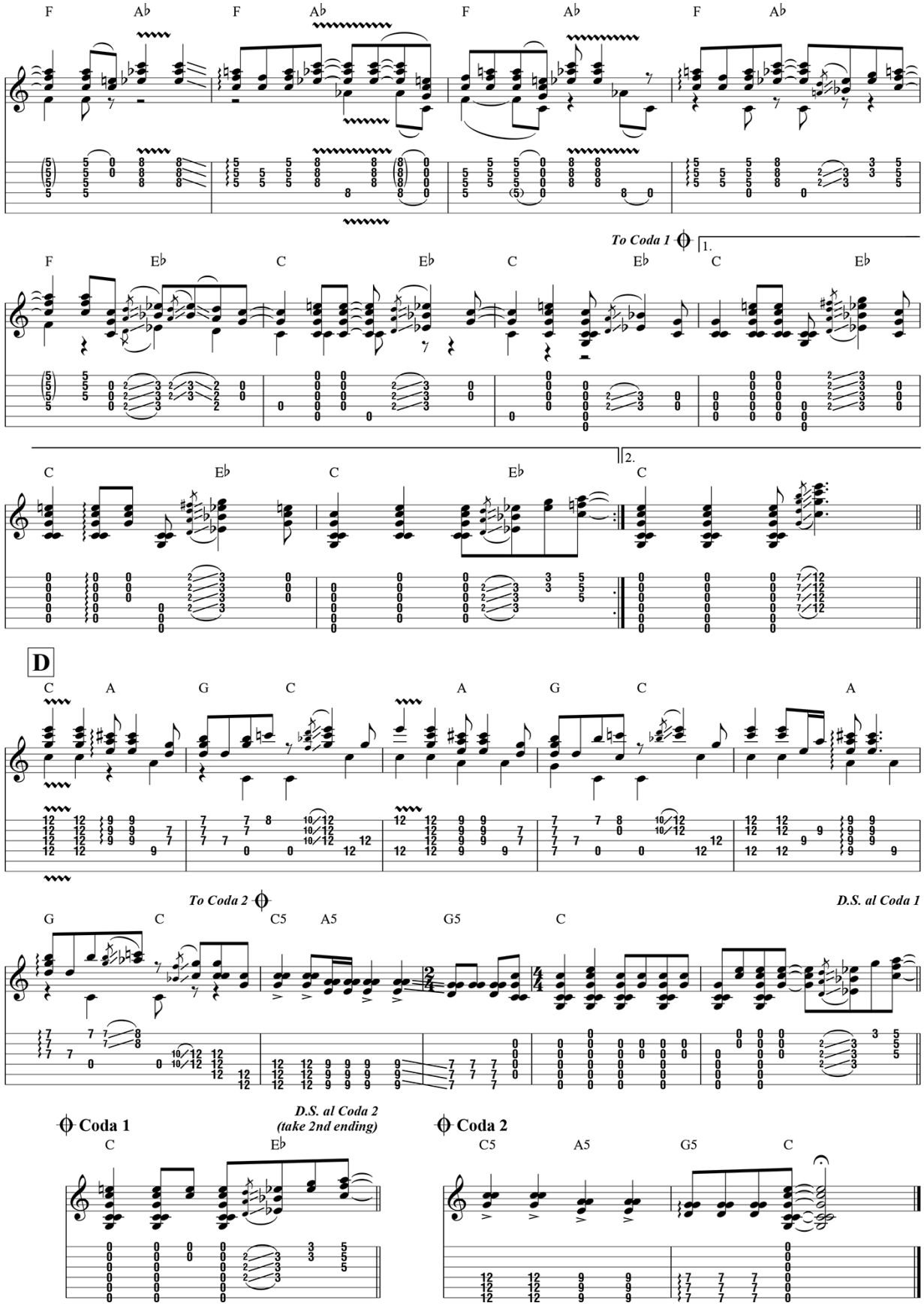
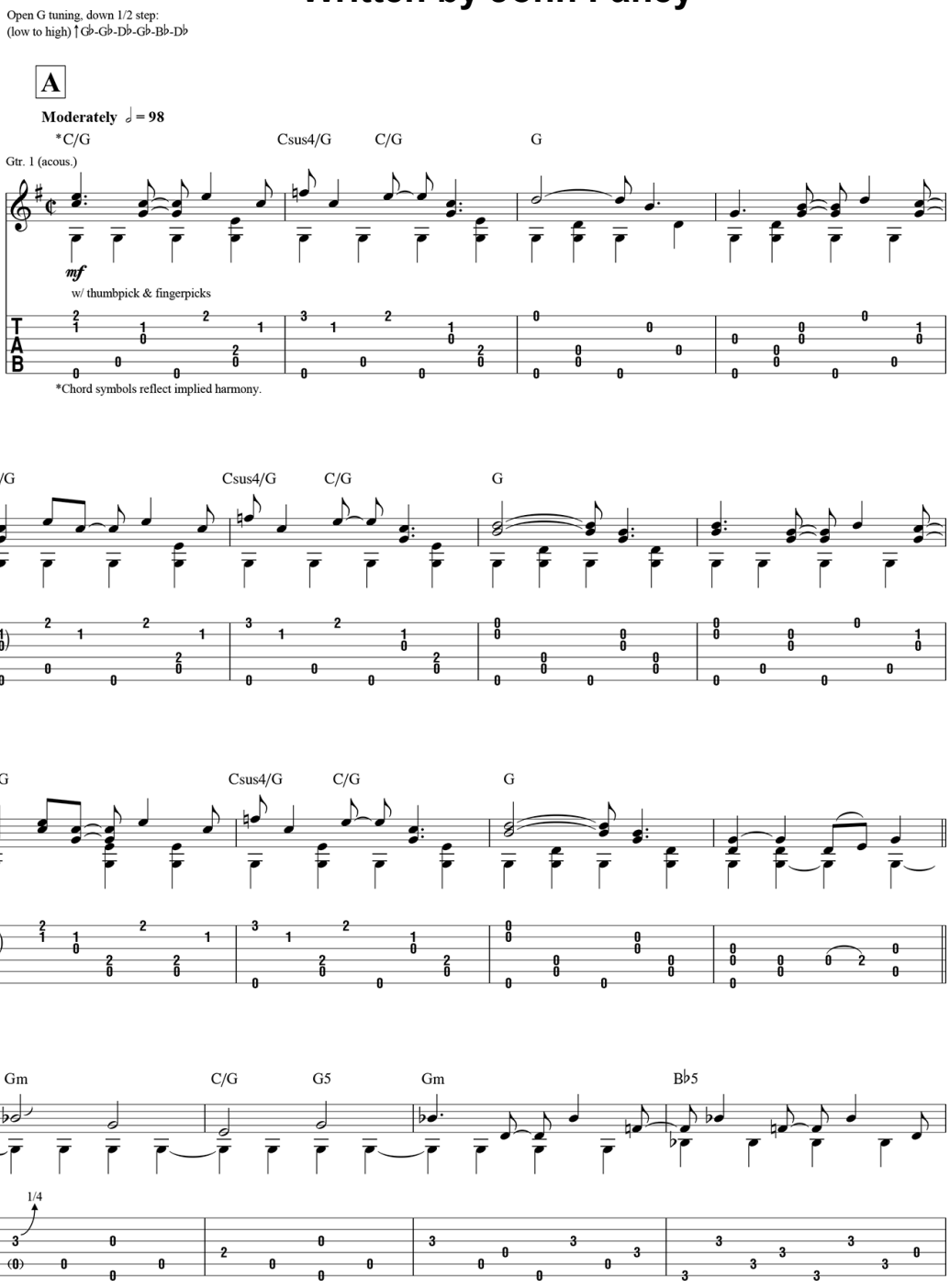

F Ab F Ab F Ab F Ab
To Coda 1
1.
F Eb C Eb C Eb C Eb
2.
C Eb C Eb C
D
C A G C A G C A
To Coda 2
D.S. al Coda 1
G C C5 A5 G5 C
Coda 1
D.S. al Coda 2
(take 2nd ending)
C Eb
Coda 2
C5 A5 G5 C

from *The Legend of Blind Joe Death*

Desperate Man Blues

Written by John Fahey



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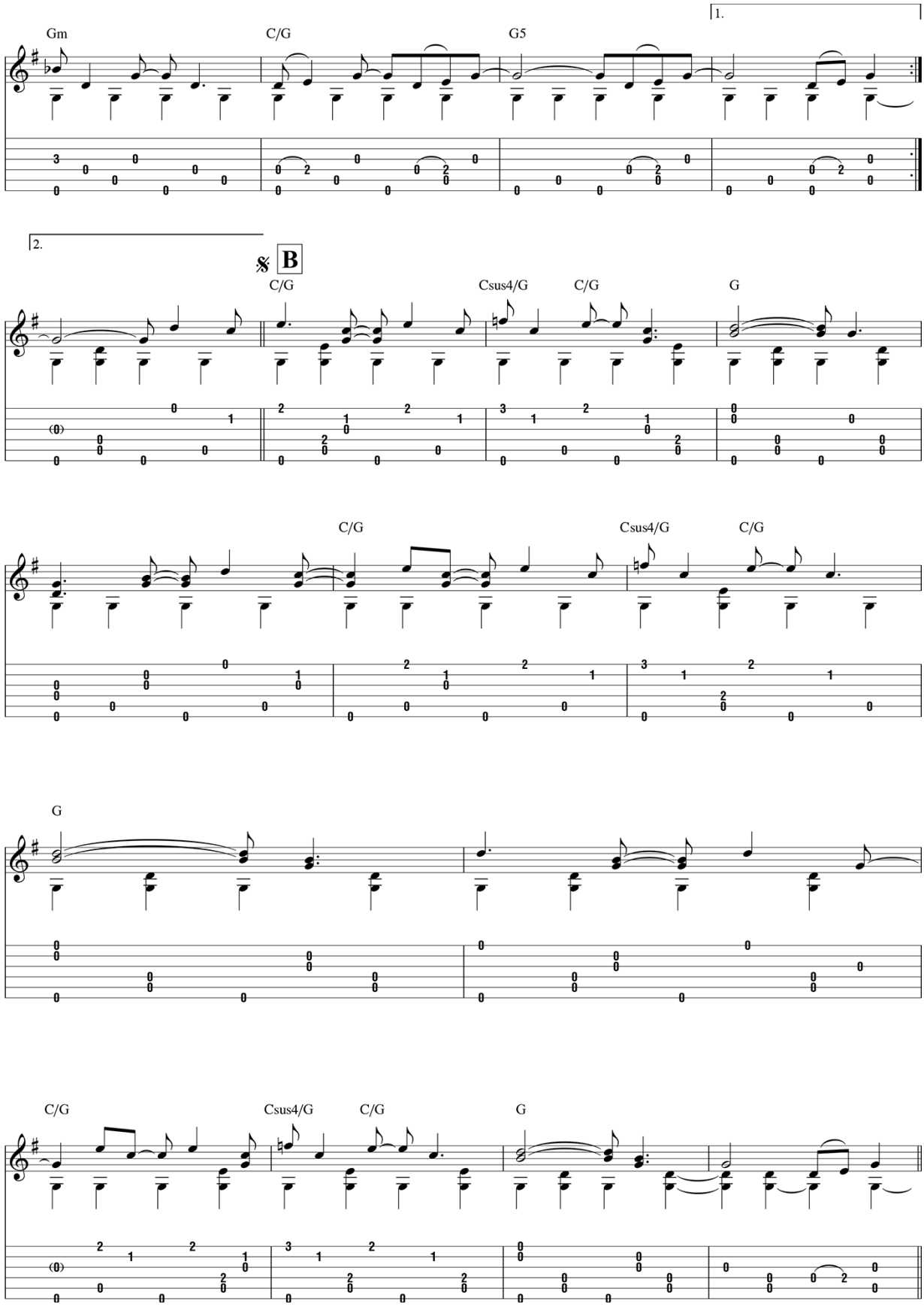
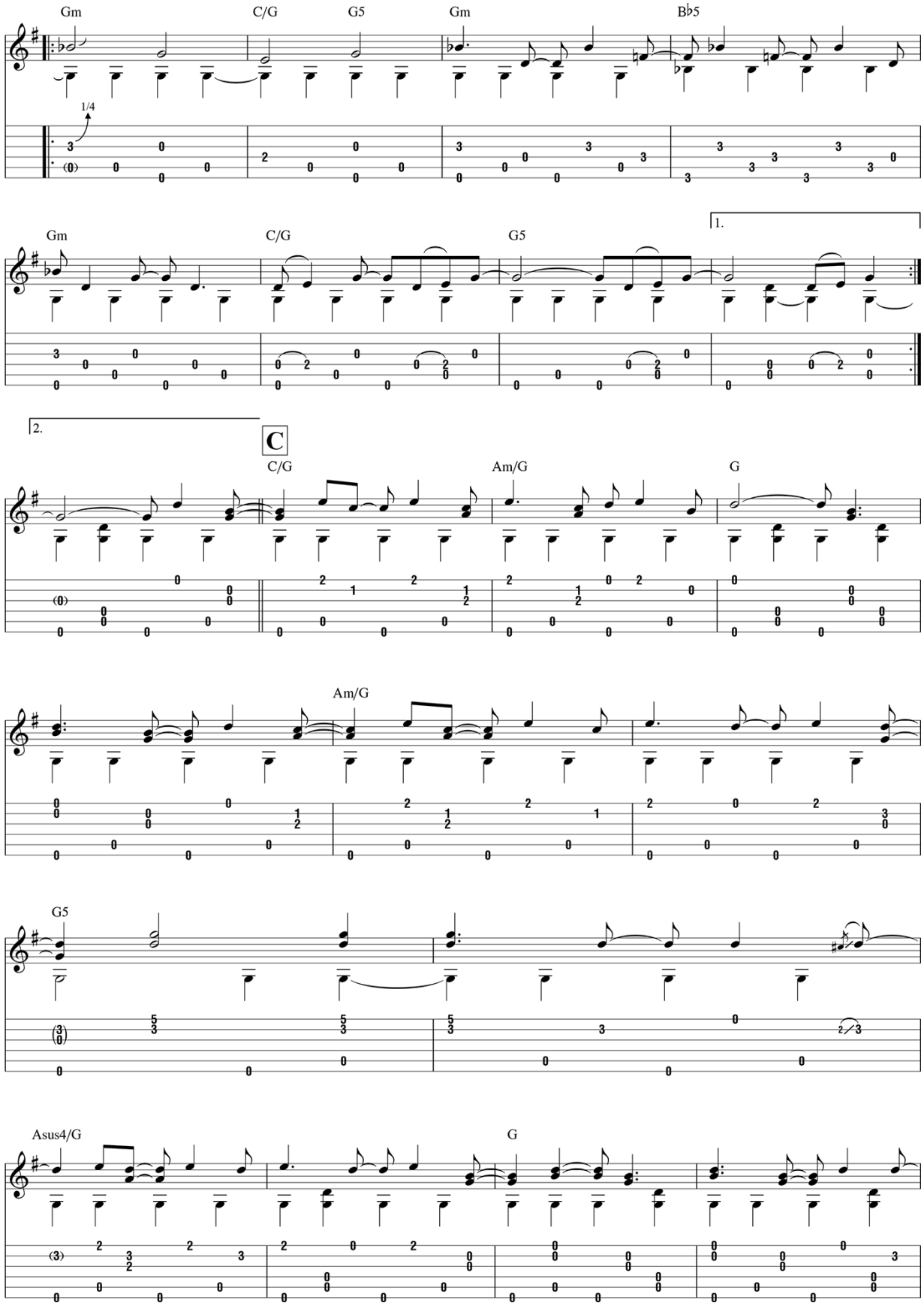
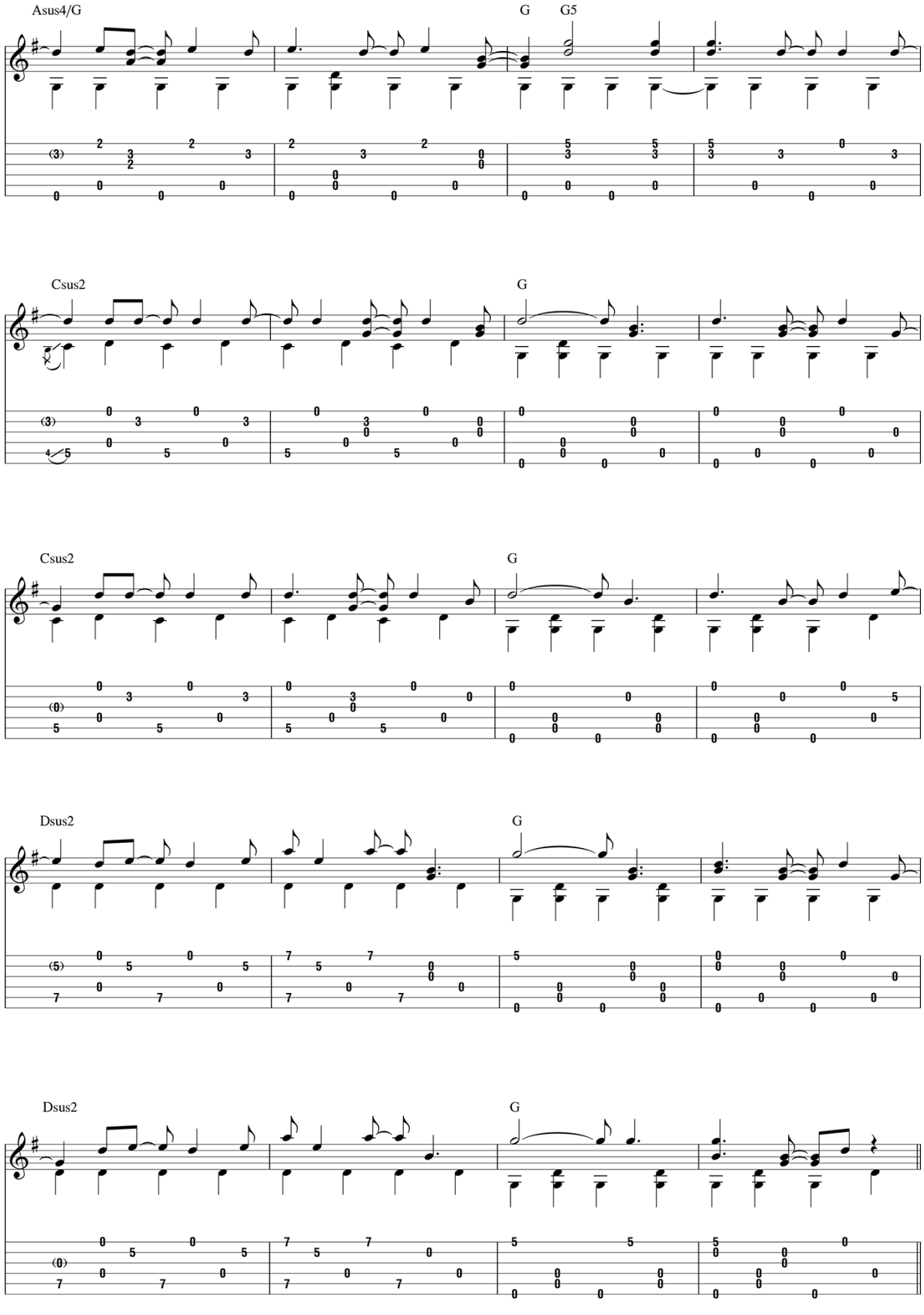
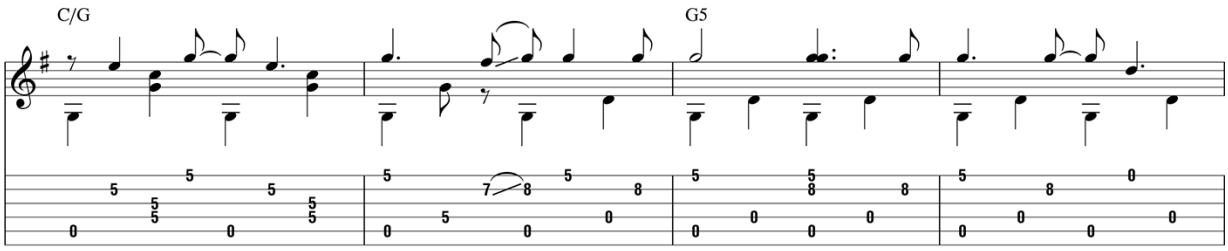

Gm
C/G
G5
1.
2.
B
C/G
Csus4/G
C/G
G
C/G
Csus4/G
C/G
G
C/G
Csus4/G
C/G
G


Gm
C/G
G5
Gm
B♭5
1/4
Gm
C/G
G5
1.
2.
C
C/G
Am/G
G
Am/G
G5
Asus4/G
G

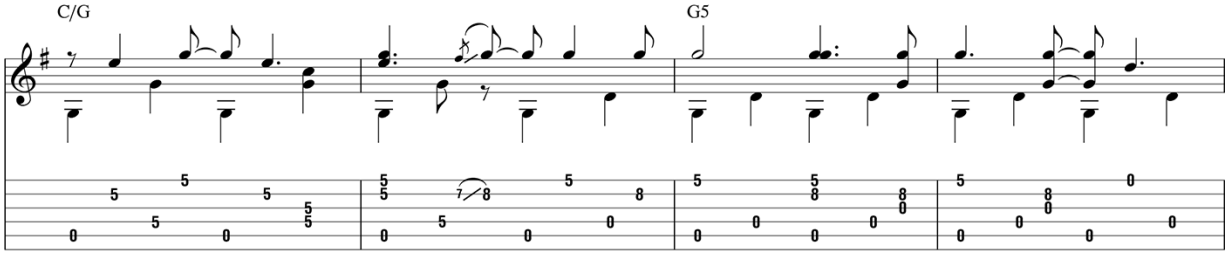

Asus4/G
G
G5
Csus2
G
Csus2
G
Dsus2
G
Dsus2
G

D

C/G G5

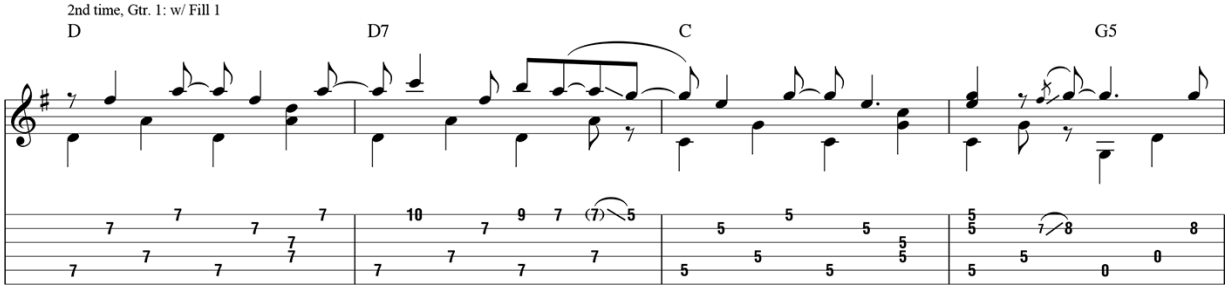


C/G G5

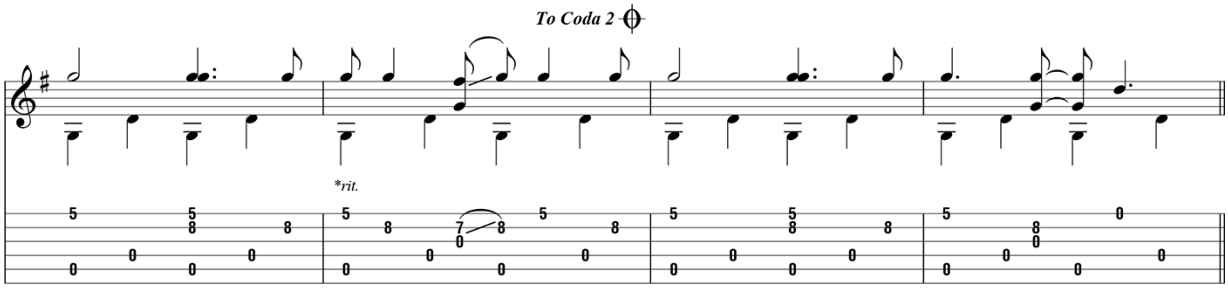


2nd time, Gtr. 1: w/ Fill 1

D D7 C G5

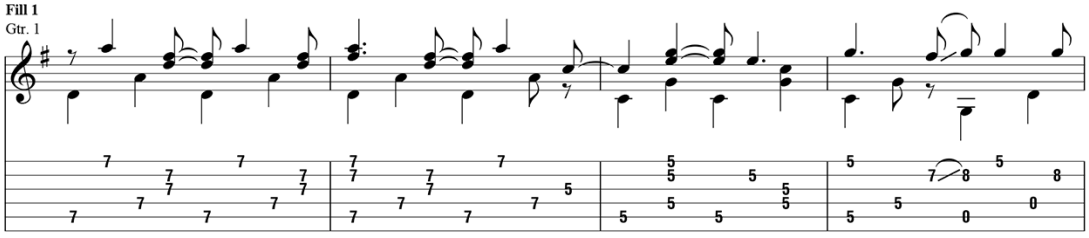


To Coda 2

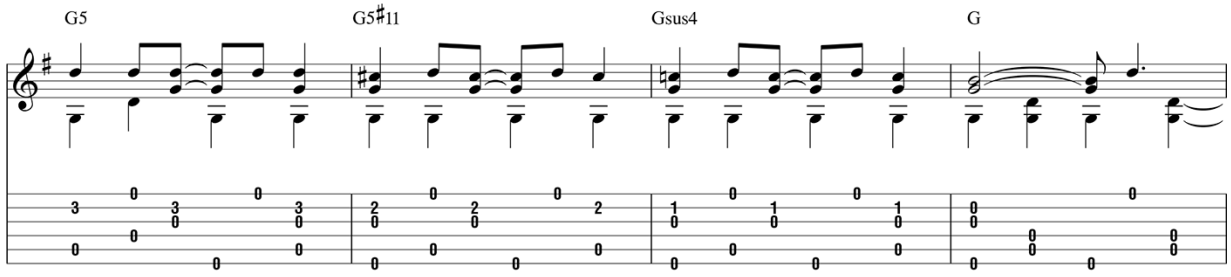


*3rd time only

Fill 1
Gtr. 1

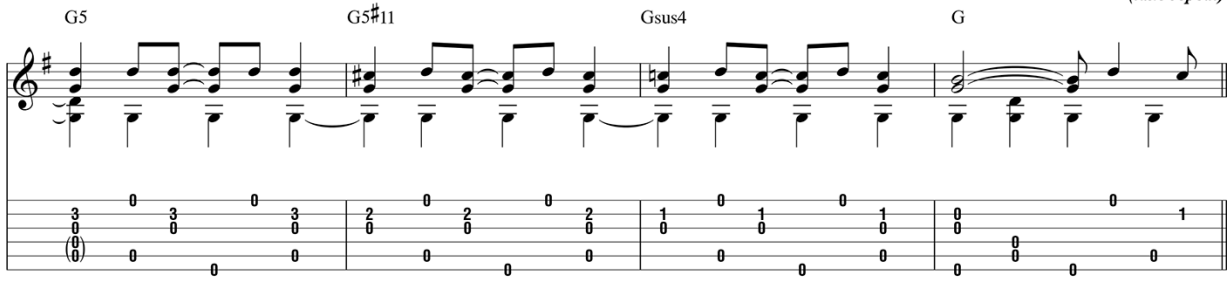


E



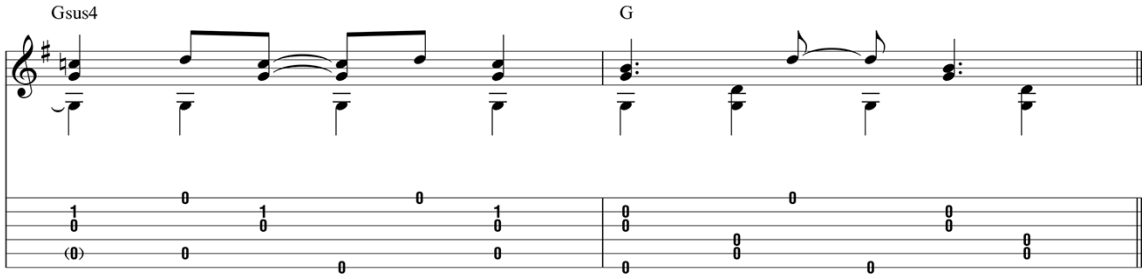
To Coda 1

D.S. al Coda 1
(take repeat)

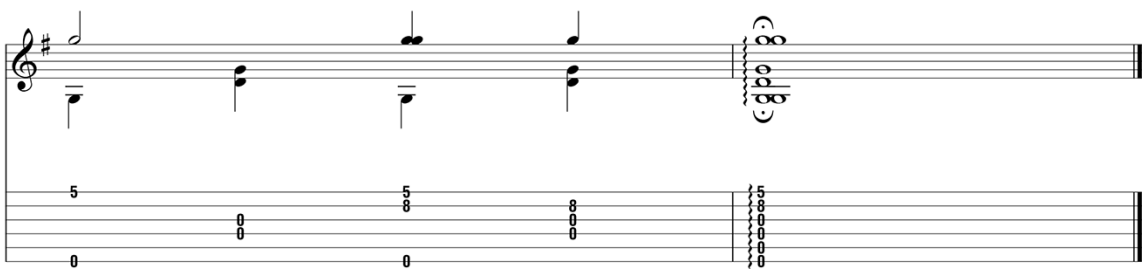


Coda 1

D.S.S. al Coda 2



Coda 2

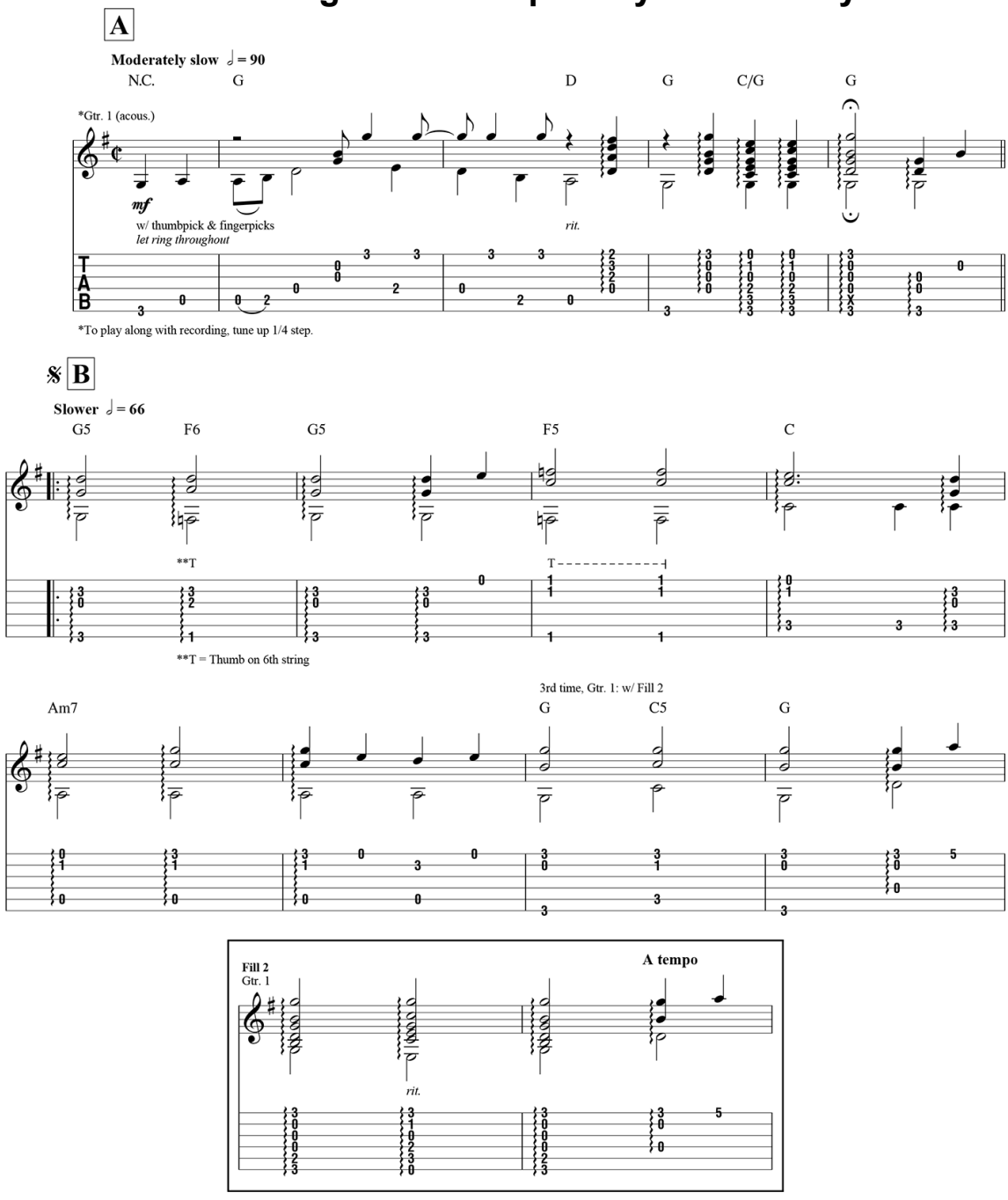


from *The Legend of Blind Joe Death*

In Christ There Is No East Or West

Traditional

Arranged and Adapted by John Fahey



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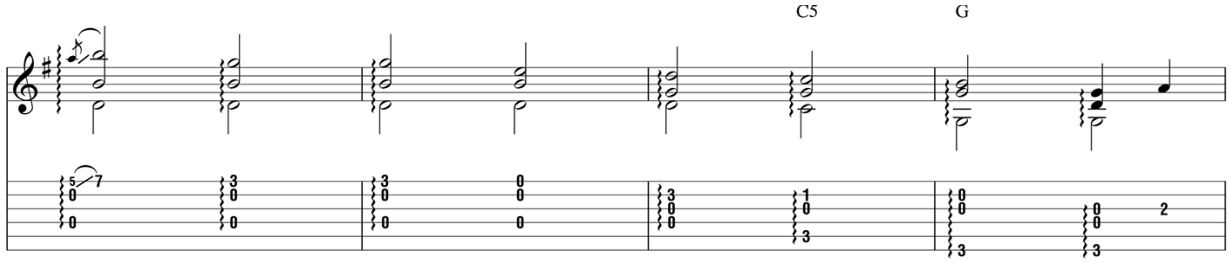
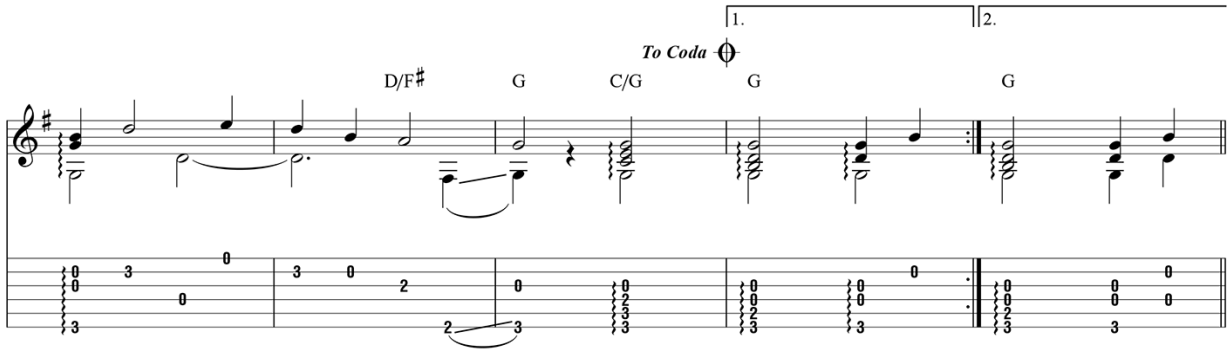
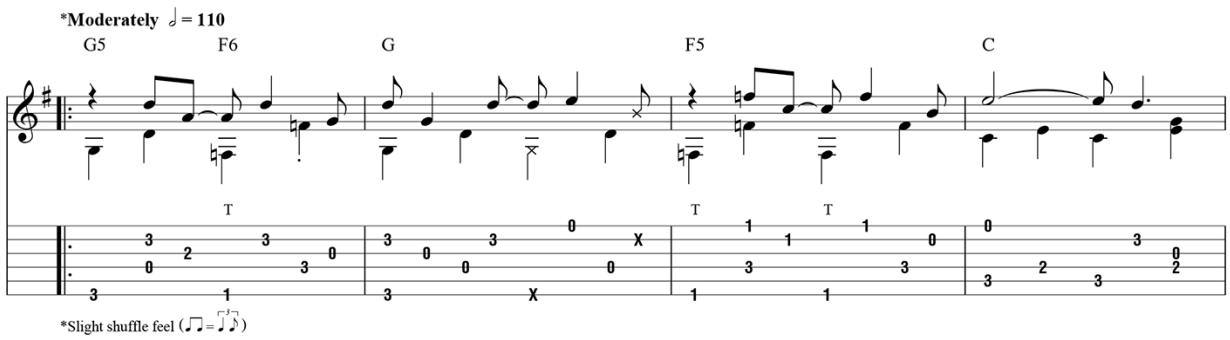
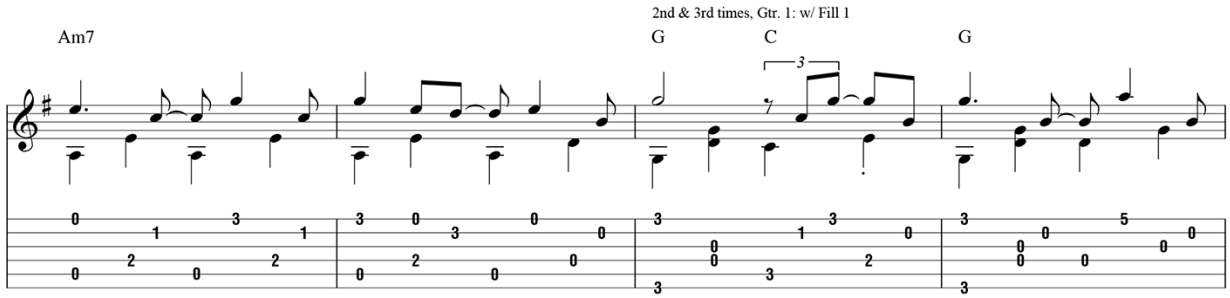


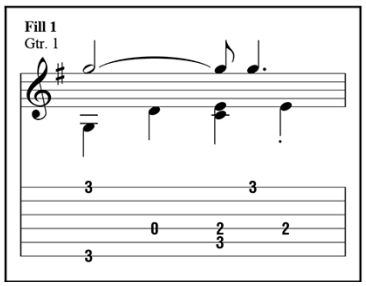


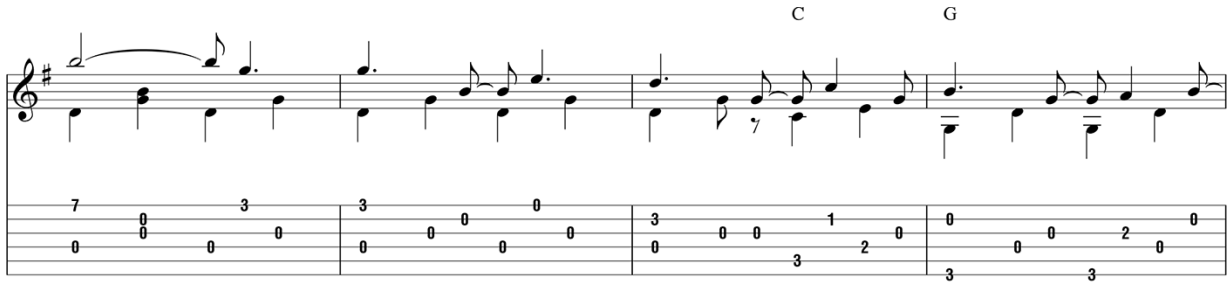
C

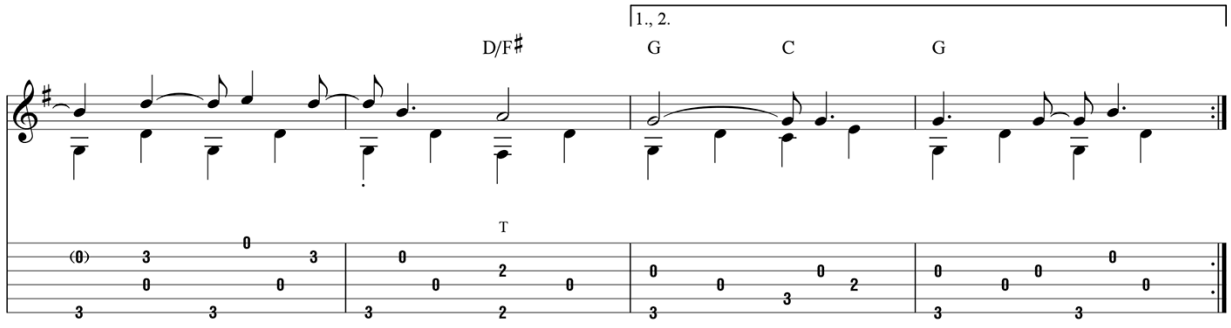


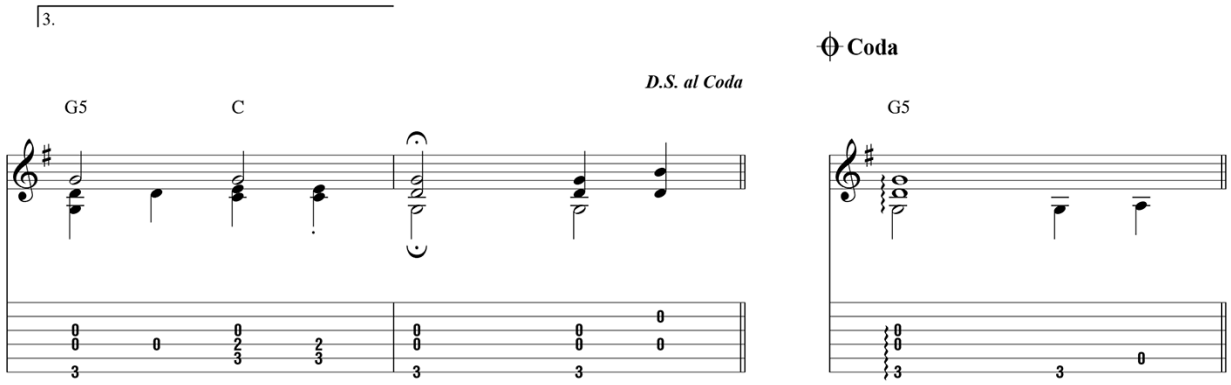
*Slight shuffle feel (♫ = ♫)

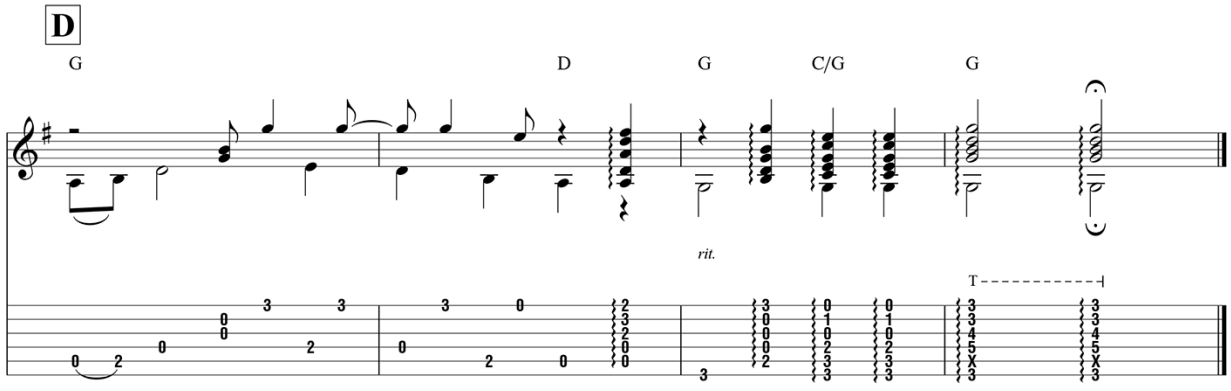





C
G


D/F♯
1., 2.
G
C
G
T

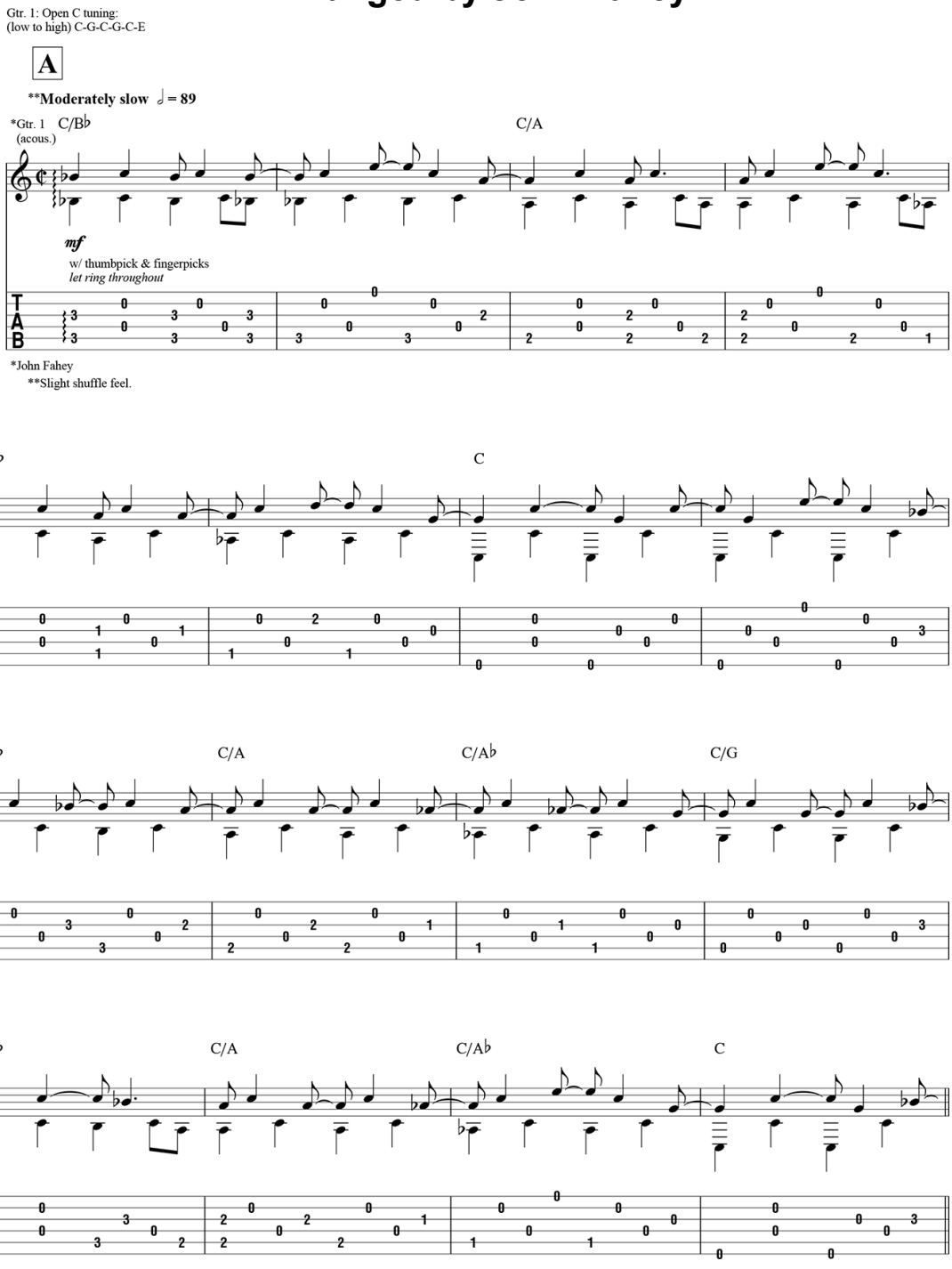

3.
Coda
D.S. al Coda
G5
C
G5


D
G
D
G
C/G
G
rit.
T

from *Old Fashioned Love*

Jaya Shiva Shankarah

Arranged by John Fahey



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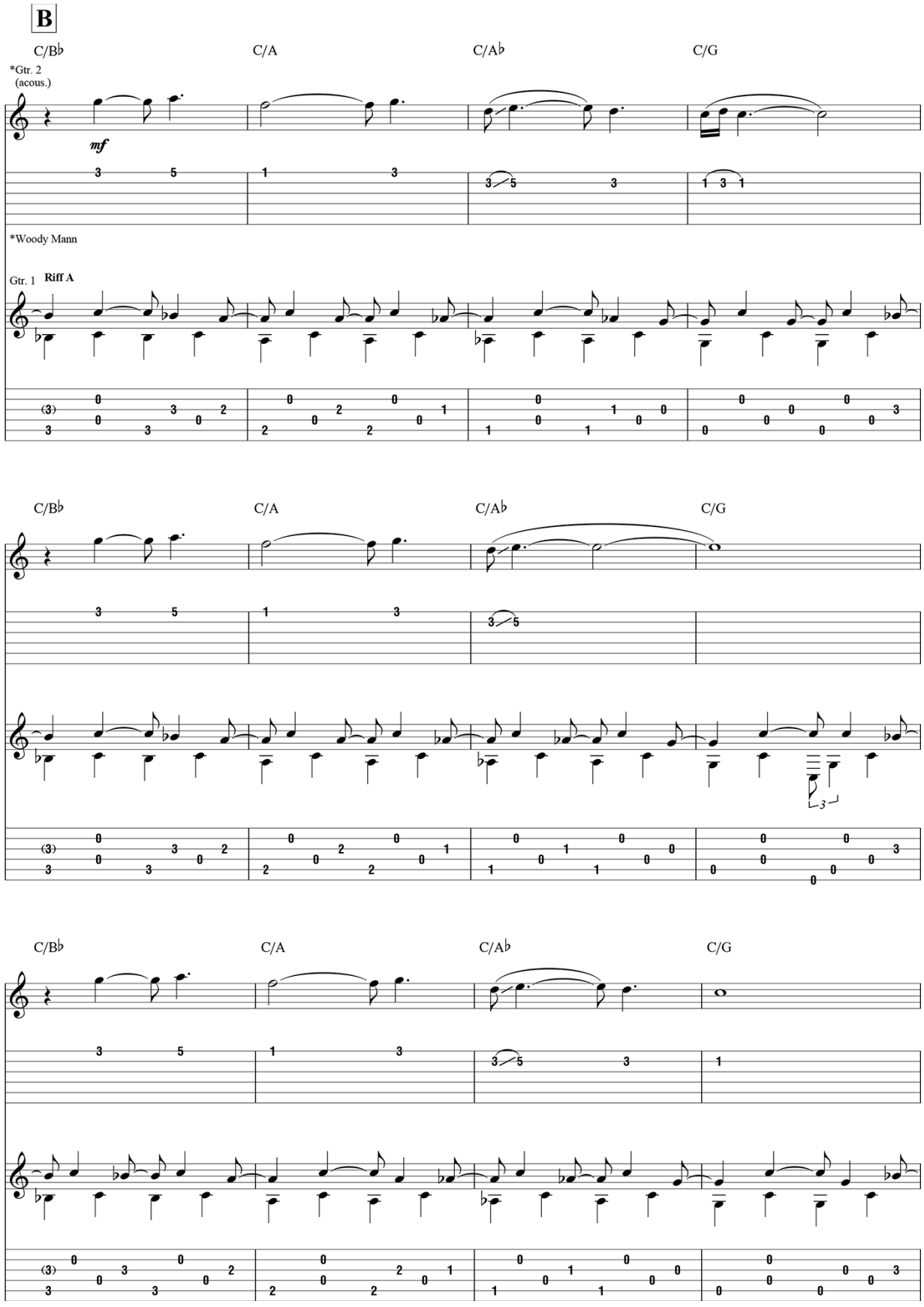
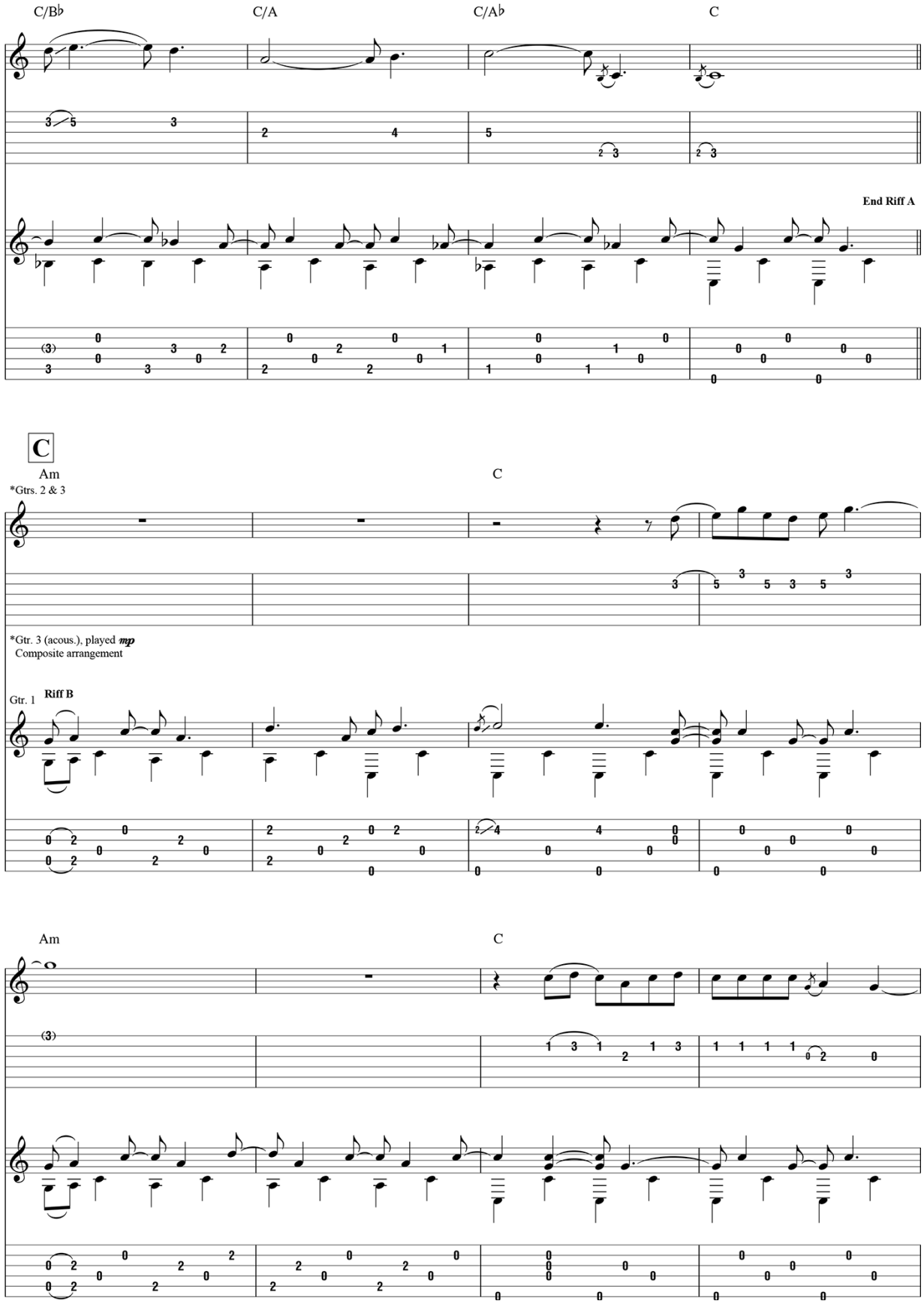
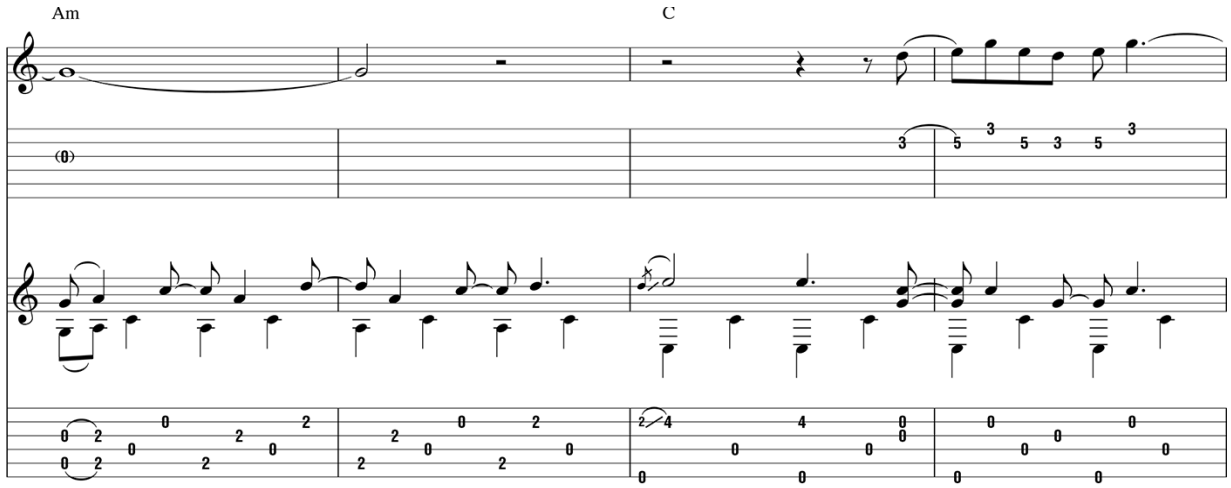
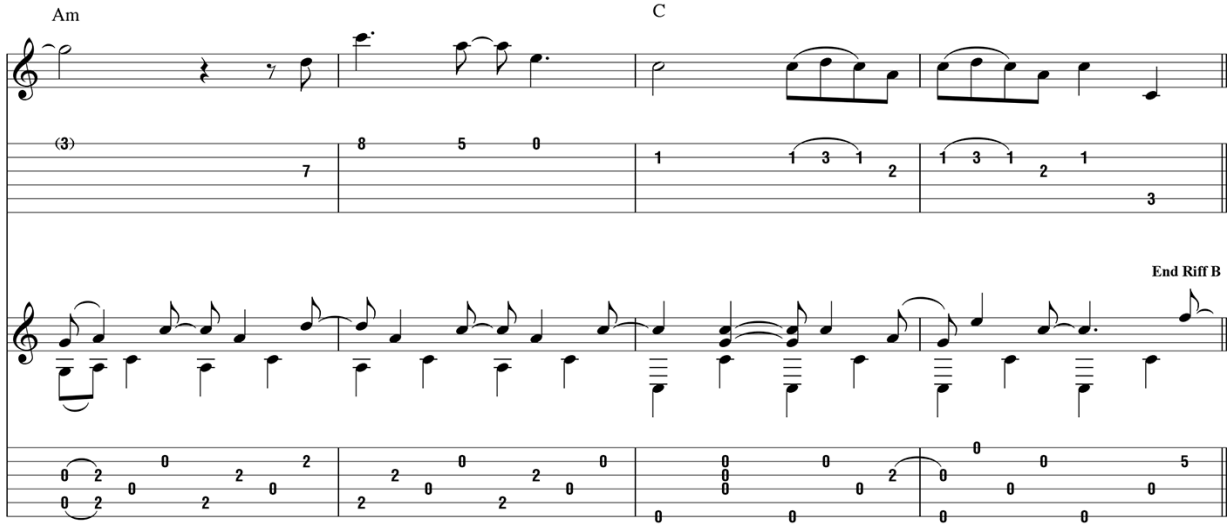
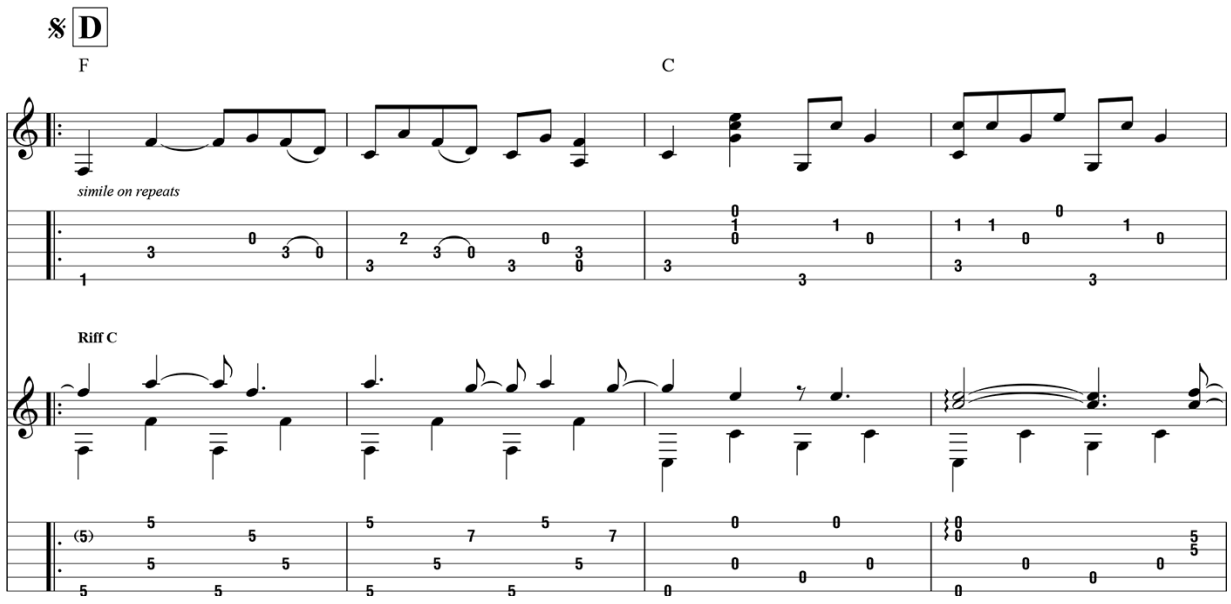
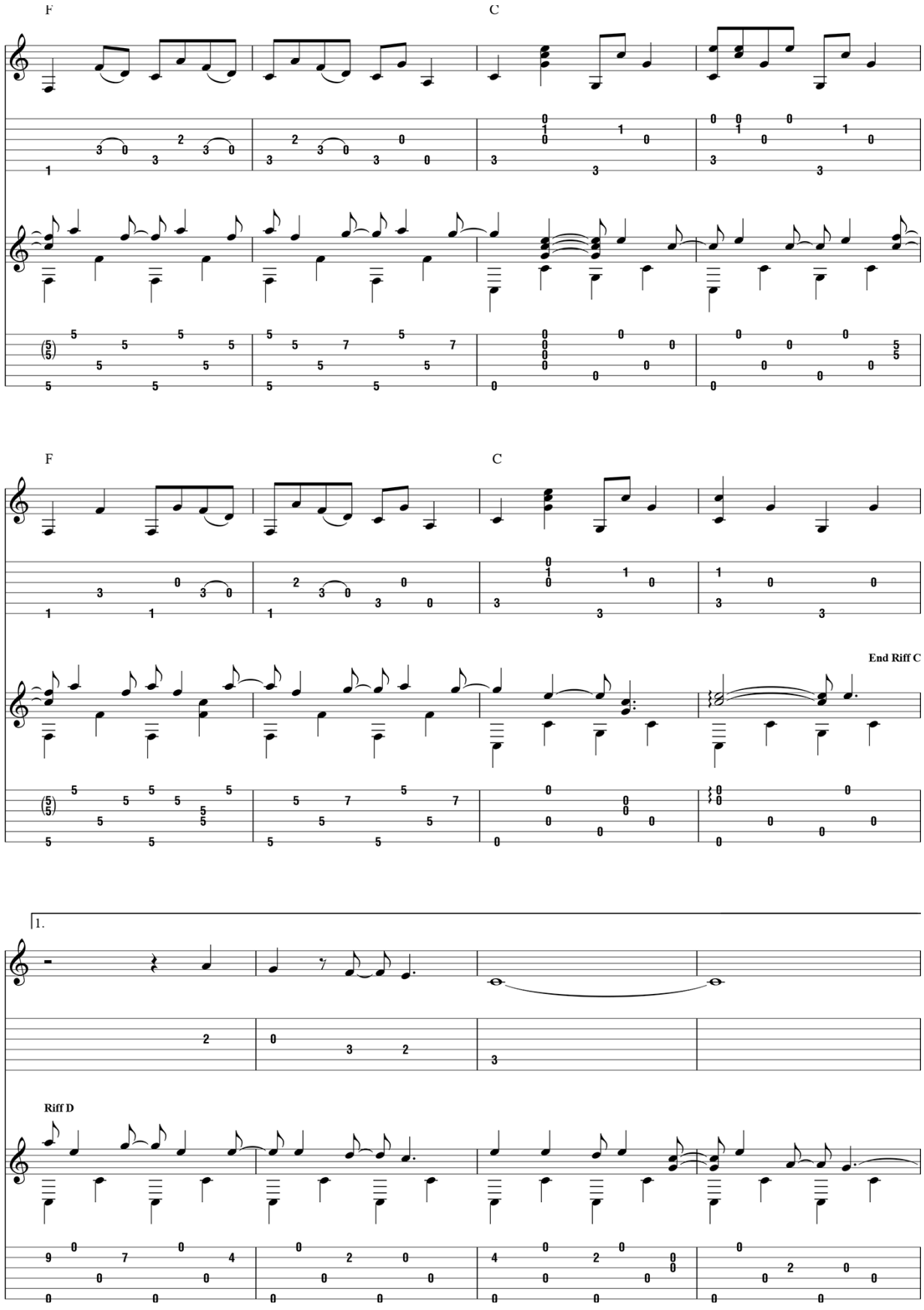

B
C/B♭
C/A
C/A♭
C/G
*Gtr. 2
(acous.)
mf
*Woody Mann
Gtr. 1
Riff A
C/B♭
C/A
C/A♭
C/G
C/B♭
C/A
C/A♭
C/G


C/B♭
C/A
C/A♭
C
End Riff A
C
Am
C
*Gtrs. 2 & 3
*Gtr. 3 (acous.), played mp
Composite arrangement
Gtr. 1
Riff B
Am
C


Am
C


Am
C
End Riff B


D
F
C
simile on repeats
Riff C


F
C
F
C
End Riff C
1.
Riff D

End Riff D

1/4

2.

Gtr. 1: w/ Riff D (1st 4 meas.)

Gtrs. 2 & 3

To Coda 1

To Coda 2

Gtrs. 2 & 3

2nd & 3rd times, Gtrs. 2 & 3: w/ Fill 1

Gtr. 1

1/4

Fill 1

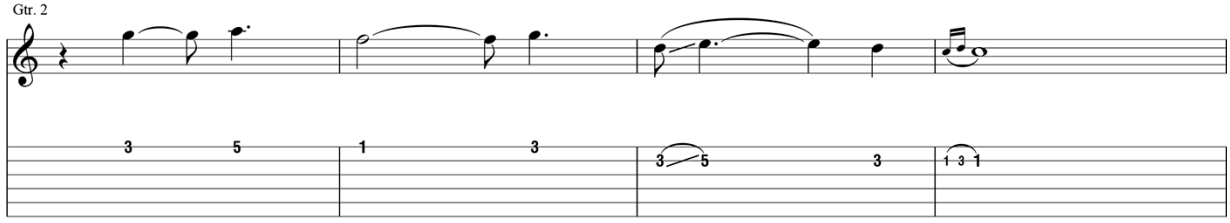
Gtrs. 2 & 3

E

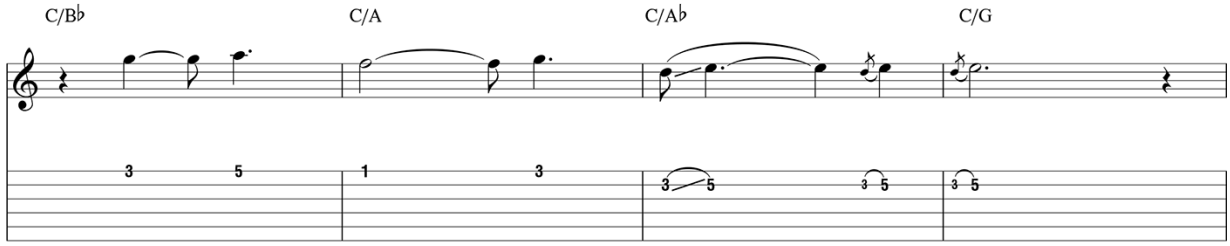
Gtr. 1: w/ Riff A
Gtr. 3 tacet

C/B♭ C/A C/A♭ C/G

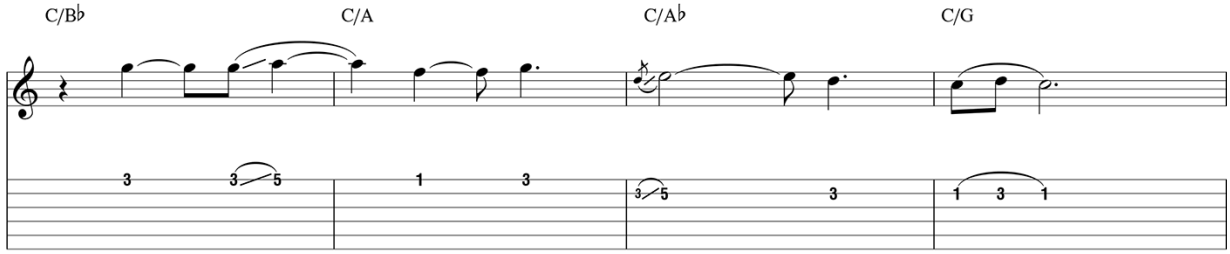
Gtr. 2



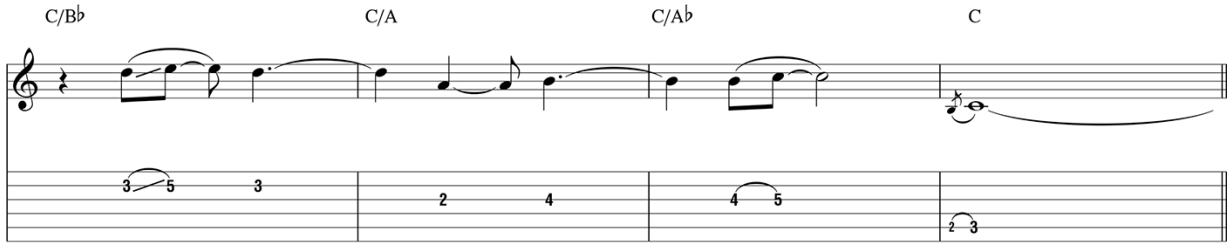
C/B♭ C/A C/A♭ C/G



C/B♭ C/A C/A♭ C/G



C/B♭ C/A C/A♭ C

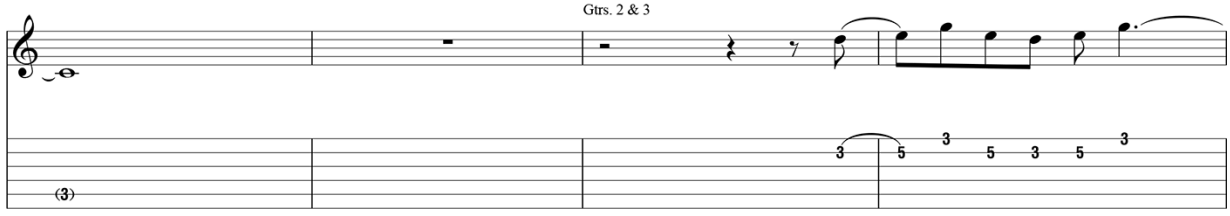


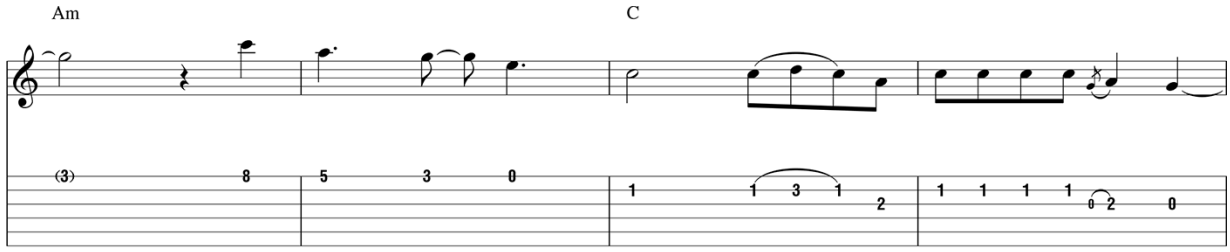
F

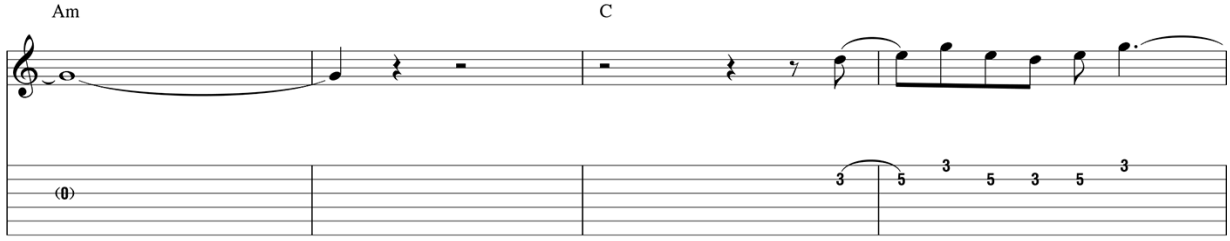
Gtr. 1: w/ Riff B

Am C

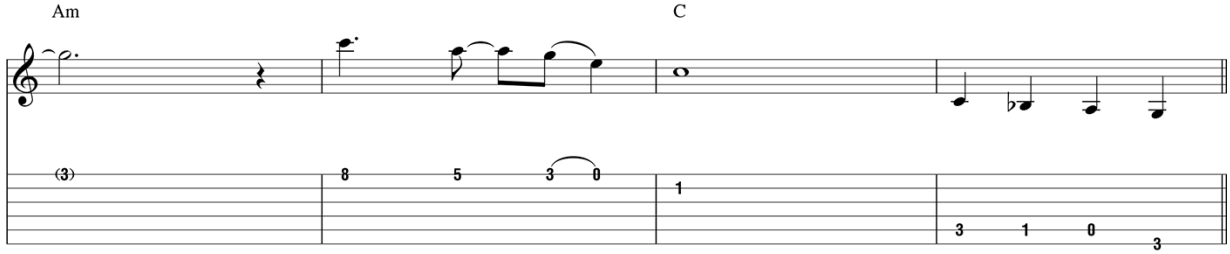
Gtrs. 2 & 3





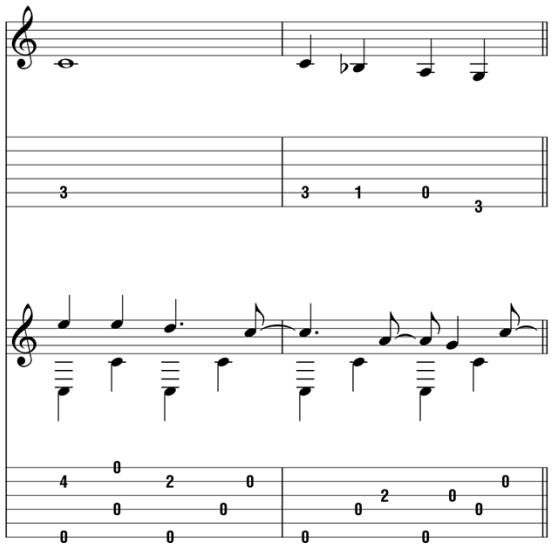


D.S. al Coda 1
(take 2nd ending)

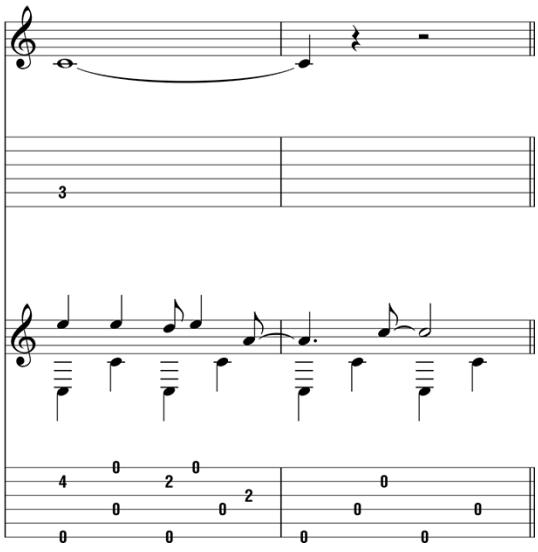


Coda 1

D.S. al Coda 2
(take 2nd ending)

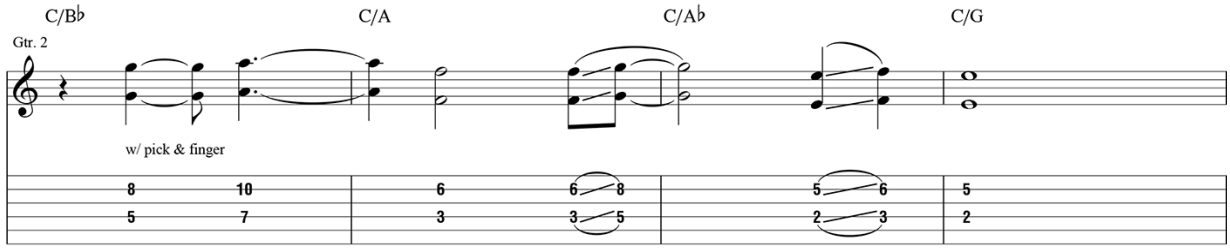


Coda 2

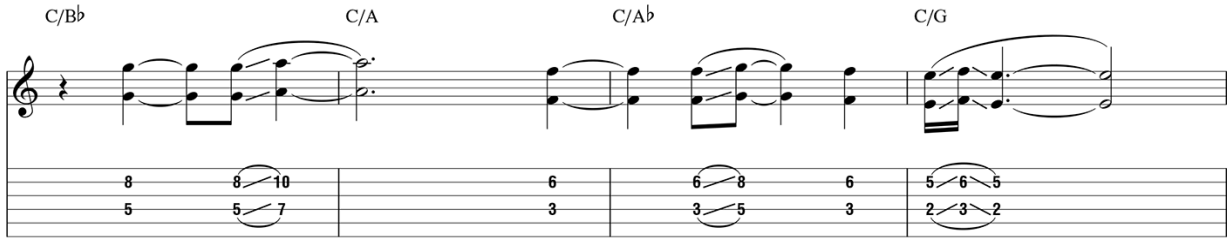


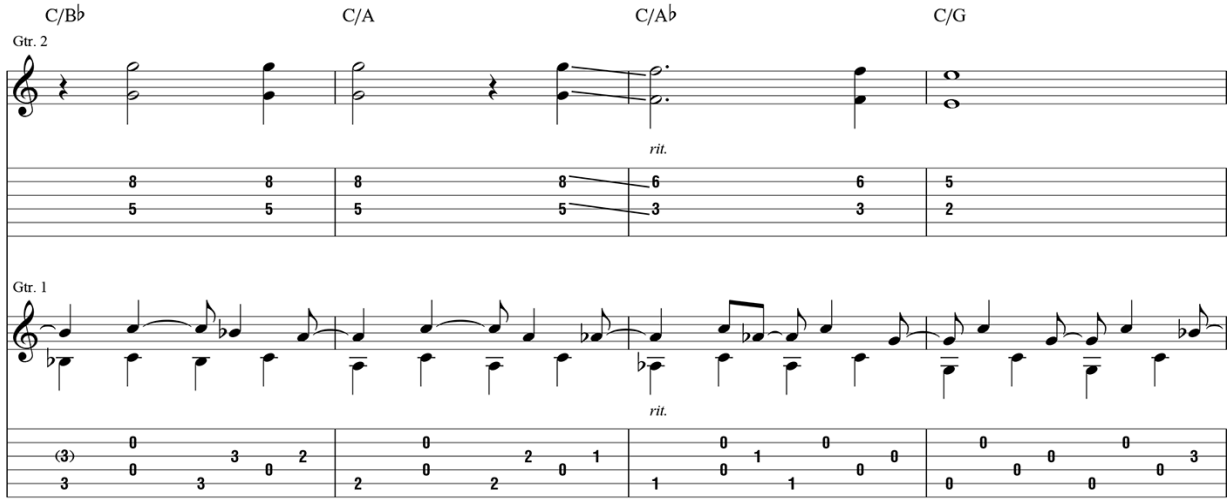
G

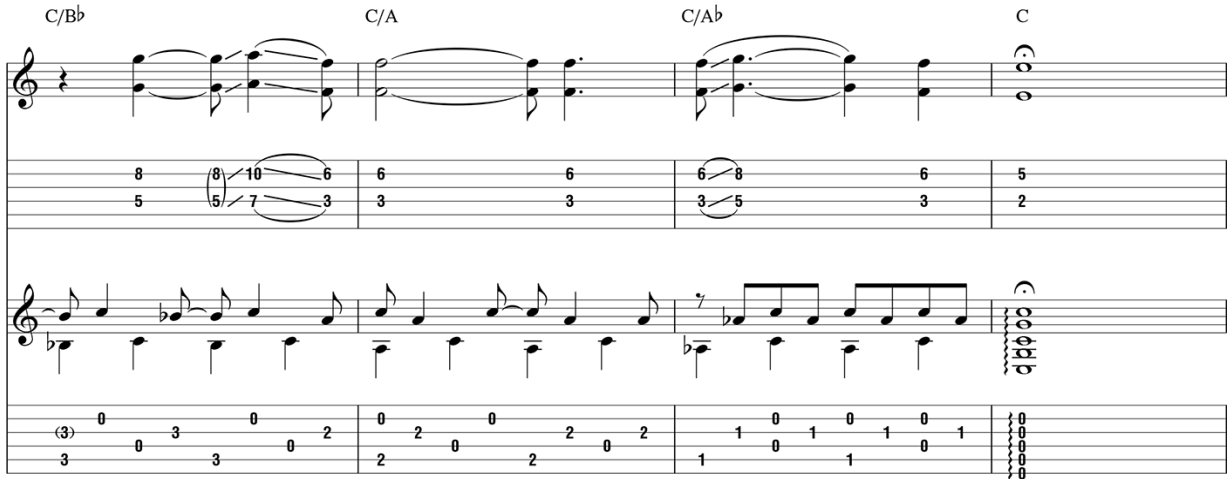
*Gtr. 1: w/ Riff A (1st 8 meas.)
Gtr. 3 tacet



*Disregard initial upstemmed tie.







H

A tempo

Gtr. 1 tacet

Gtr. 2

w/ pick

*Gtr. 1: w/ Riff C

F

C

*Disregard initial upstemmed tied note.

F

C

F

C

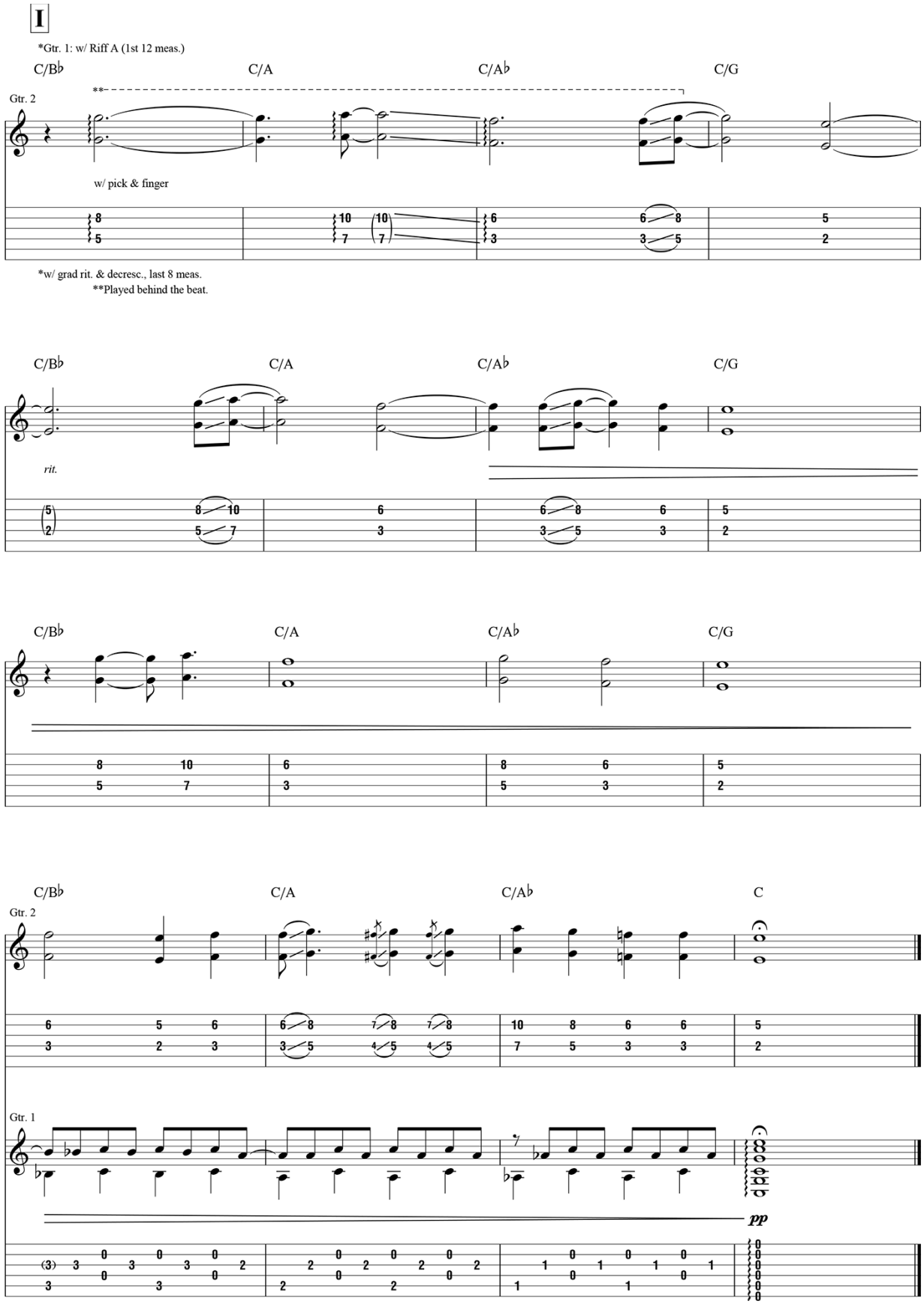
Gtr. 1: w/ Riff D

Gtr. 2

1.

2.

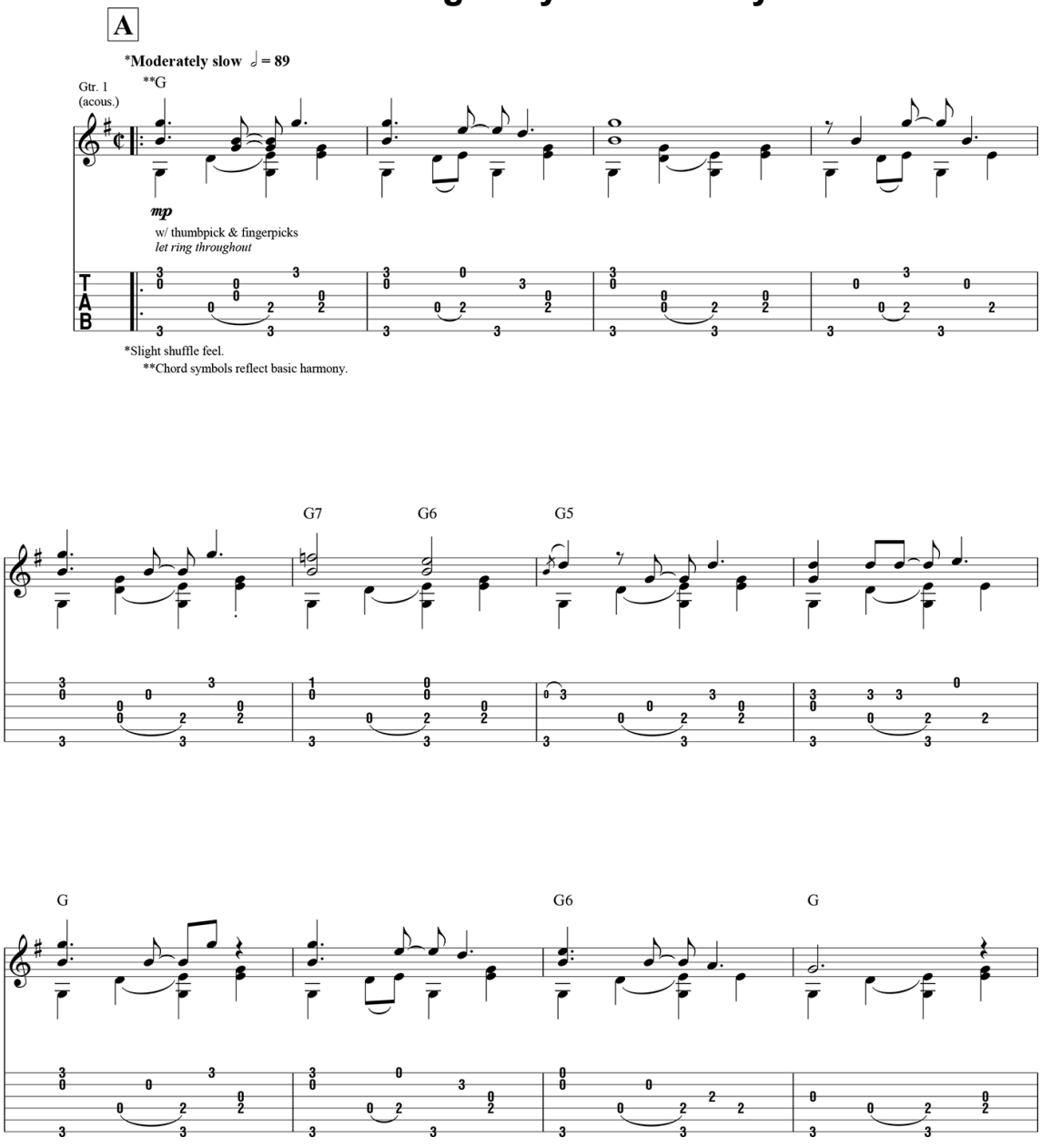
Gtr. 1


I
*Gtr. 1: w/ Riff A (1st 12 meas.)
C/B♭
C/A
C/A♭
C/G
Gtr. 2
**
w/ pick & finger
*w/ grad rit. & decresc., last 8 meas.
**Played behind the beat.
rit.
C
Gtr. 1
pp

from *The Legend of Blind Joe Death*

John Henry

Arranged by John Fahey



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2nd-5th times, Gtr. 1: w/ Fill 1

G(♯9)

To Coda

G

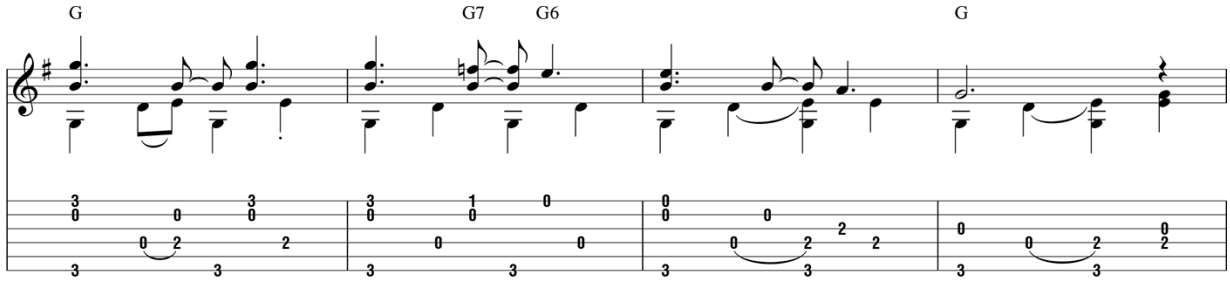
Play 4 times

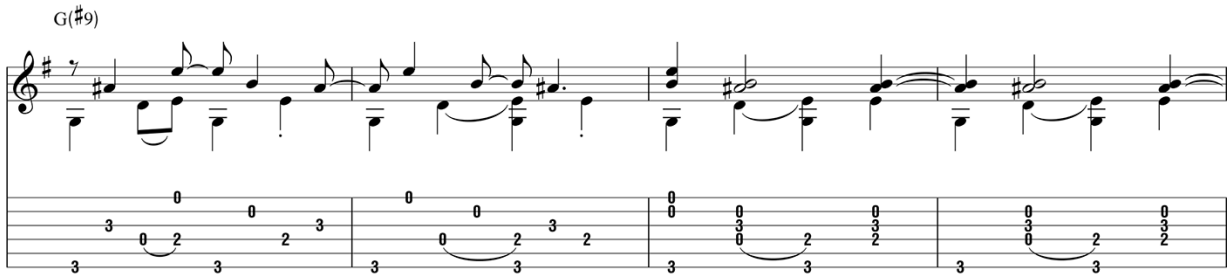
B

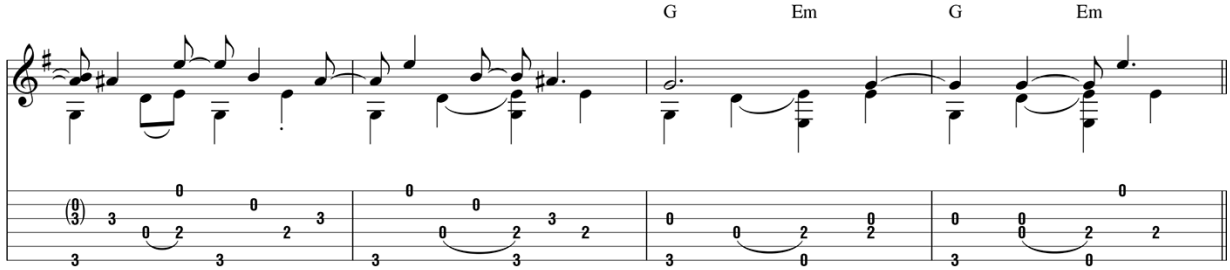
G

G7 G6 G5

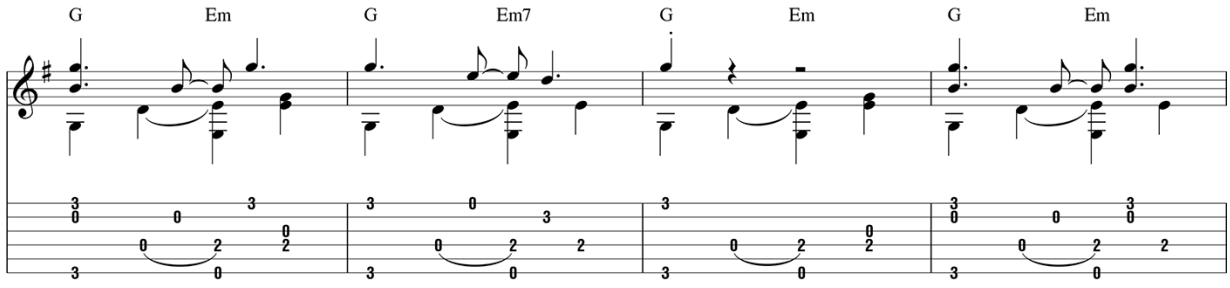
Fill 1
Gtr. 1

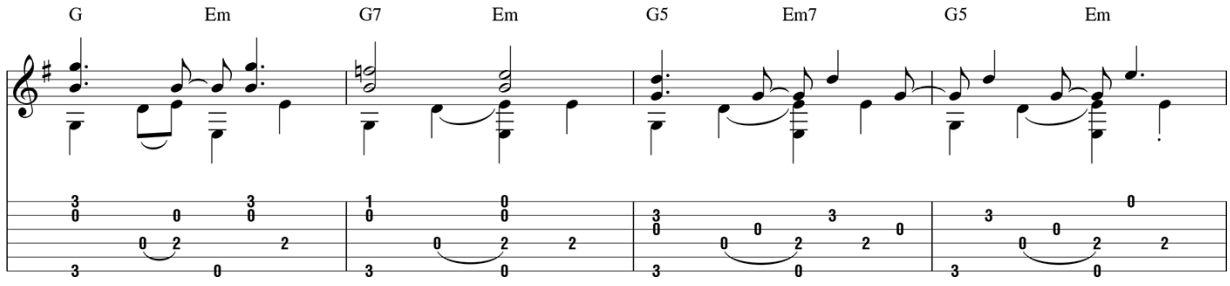


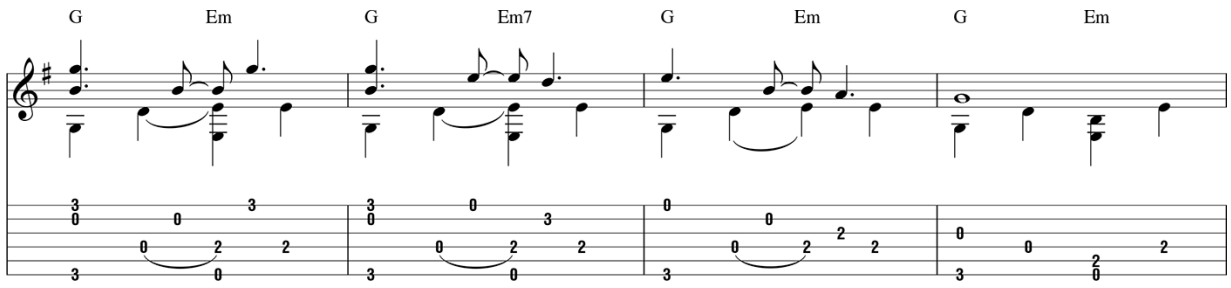


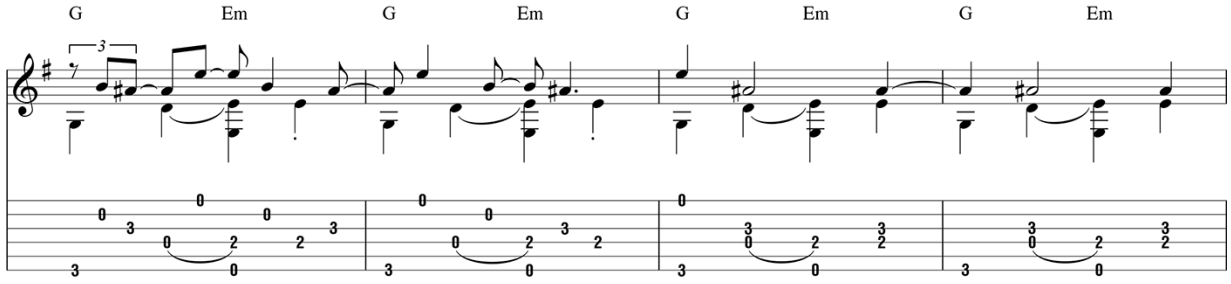


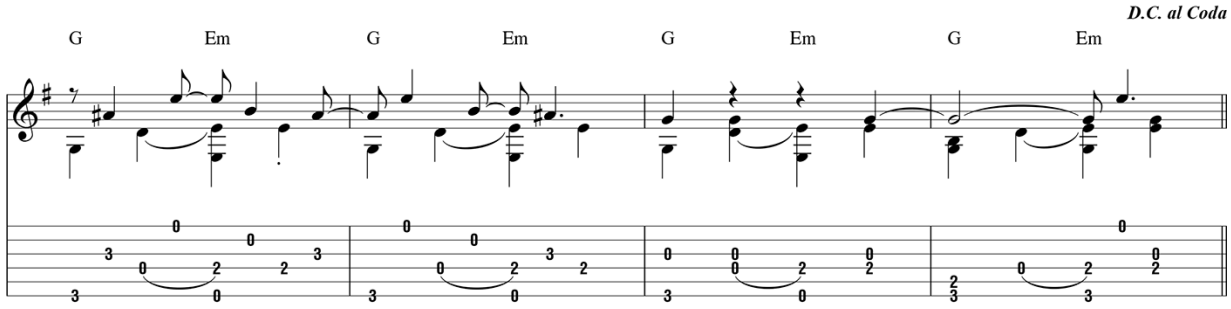
C

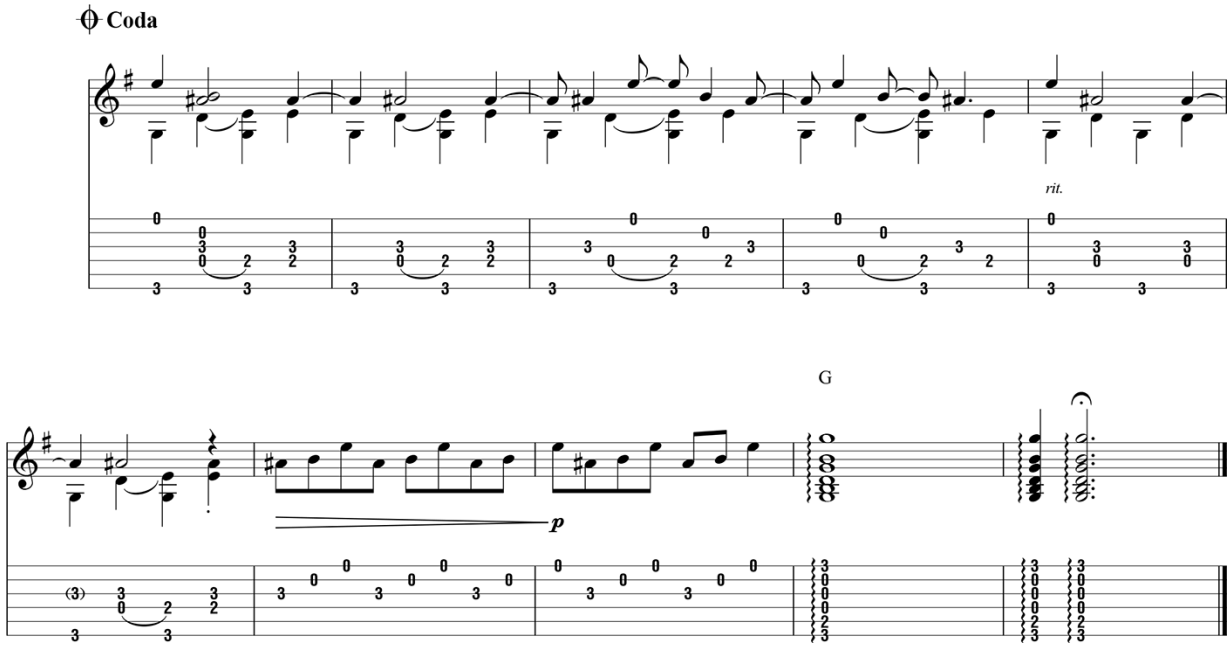





G
Em
G
Em7
G
Em
G
Em


G
Em
G
Em
G
Em
G
Em

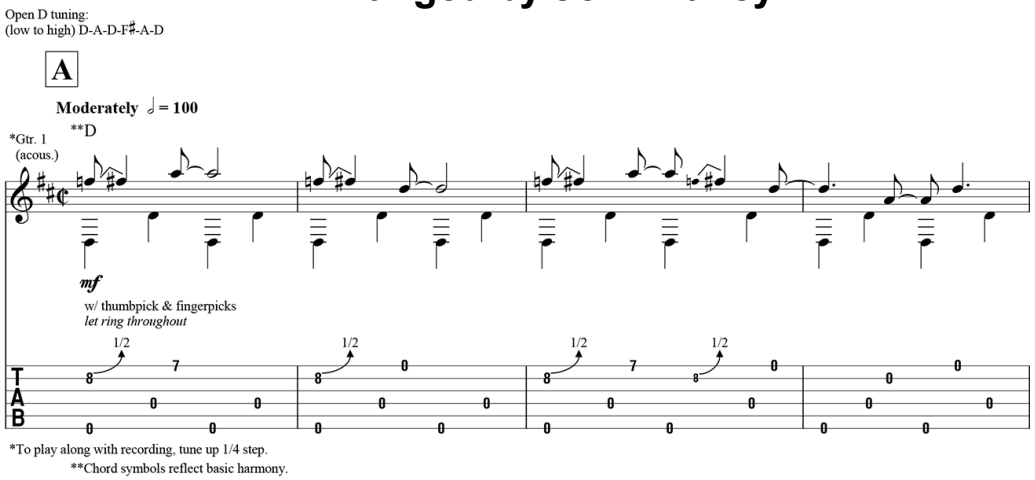

D.C. al Coda
G
Em
G
Em
G
Em
G
Em

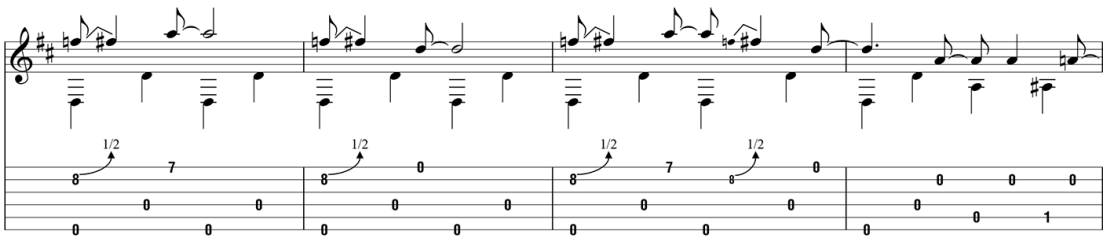

Coda
rit.
G
p

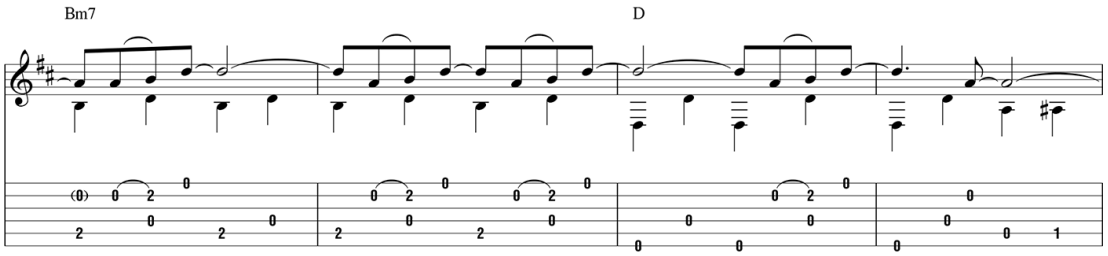
from *The Legend of Blind Joe Death*

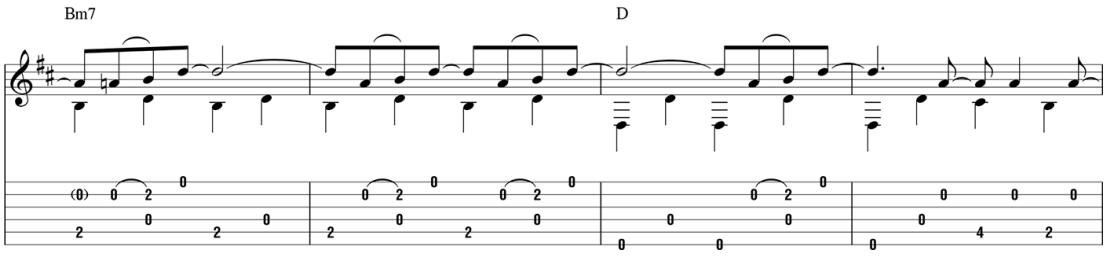
Poor Boy, Long Ways From Home

Arranged by John Fahey









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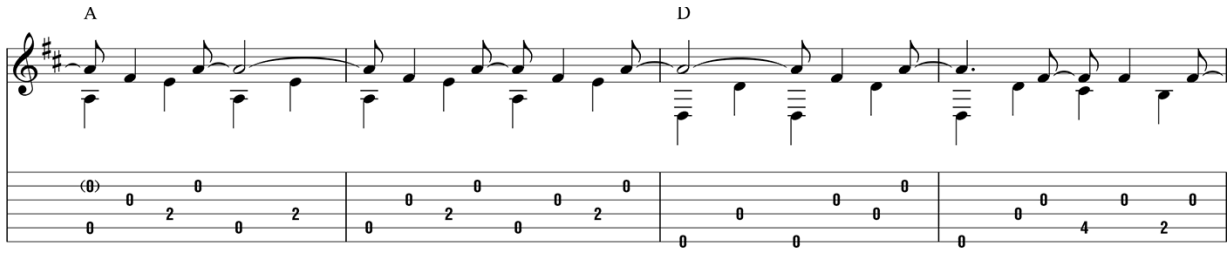
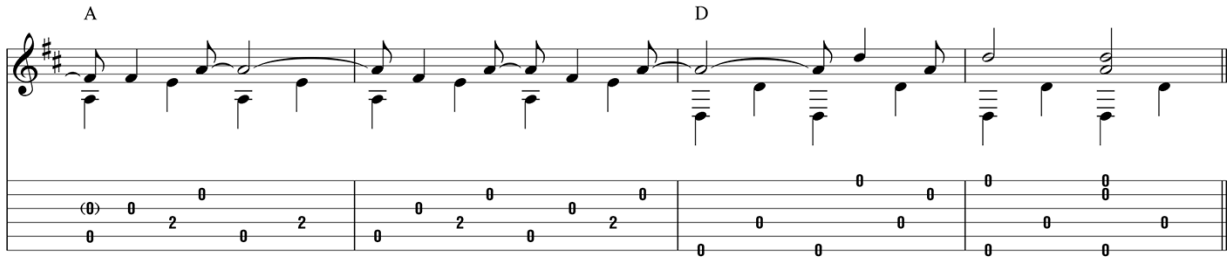
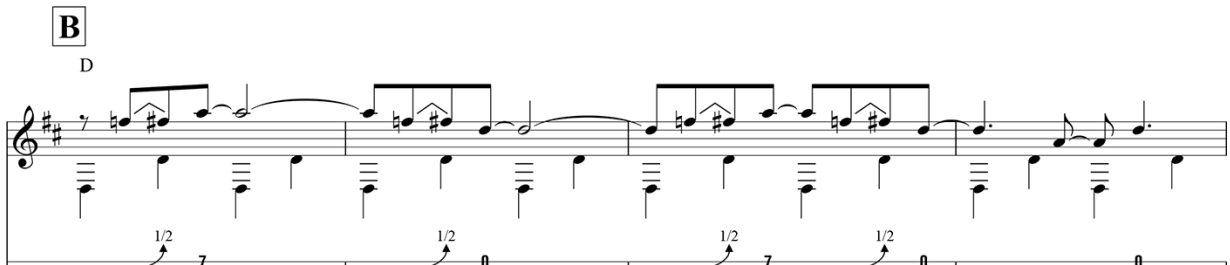
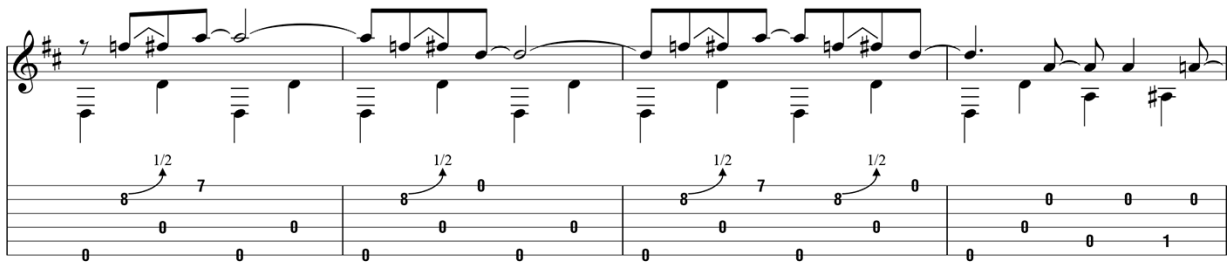
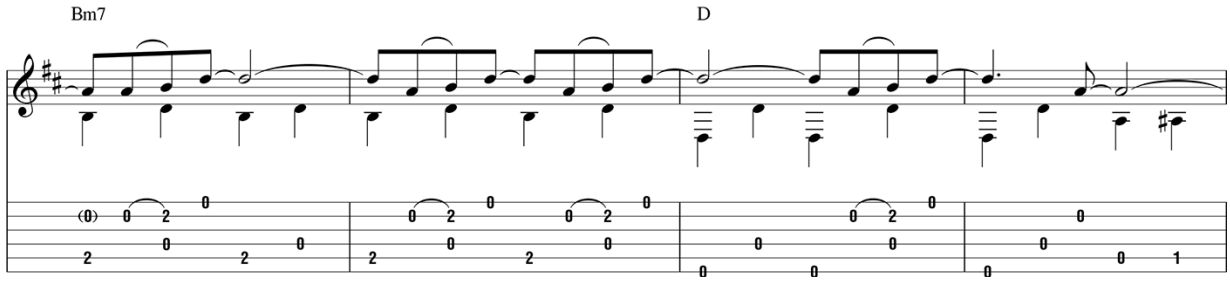
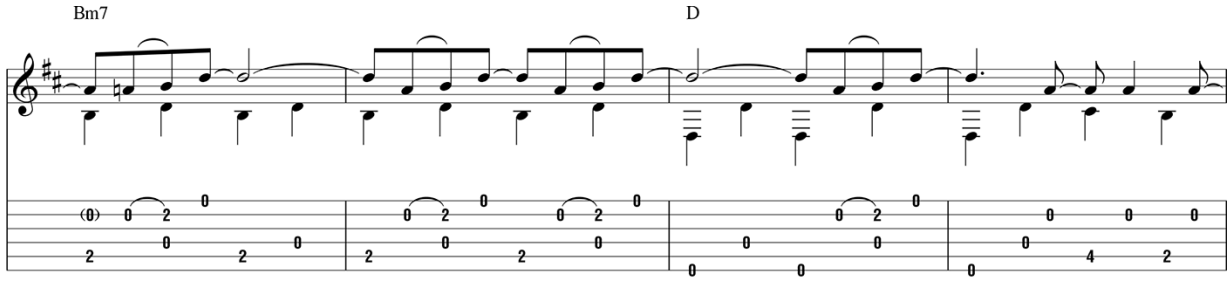

A
D

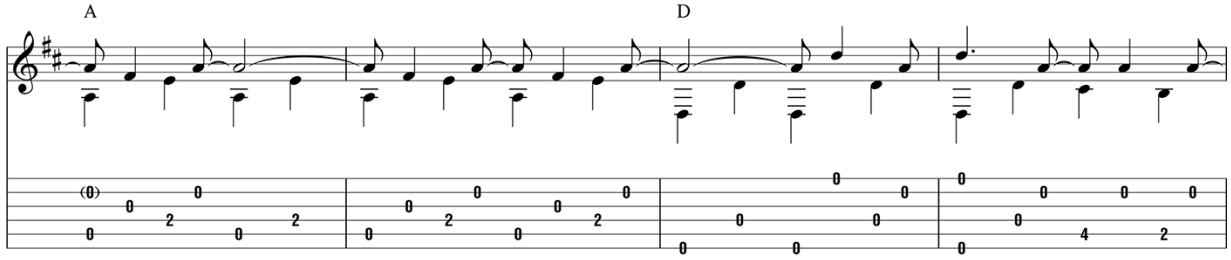

A
D

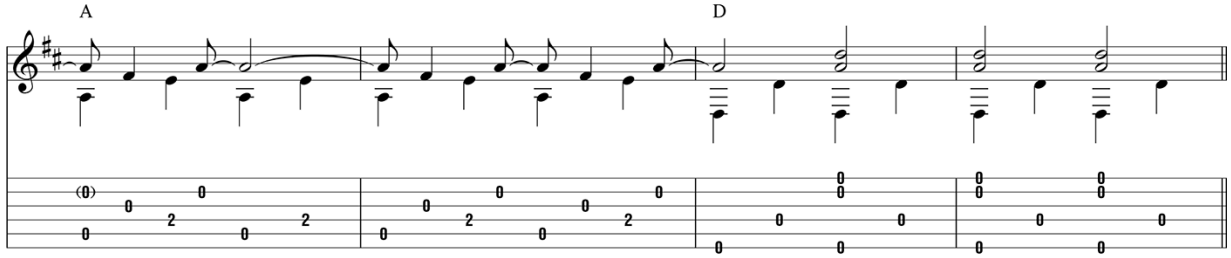

B
D
1/2
1/2
1/2
1/2


1/2
1/2
1/2
1/2


Bm7
D







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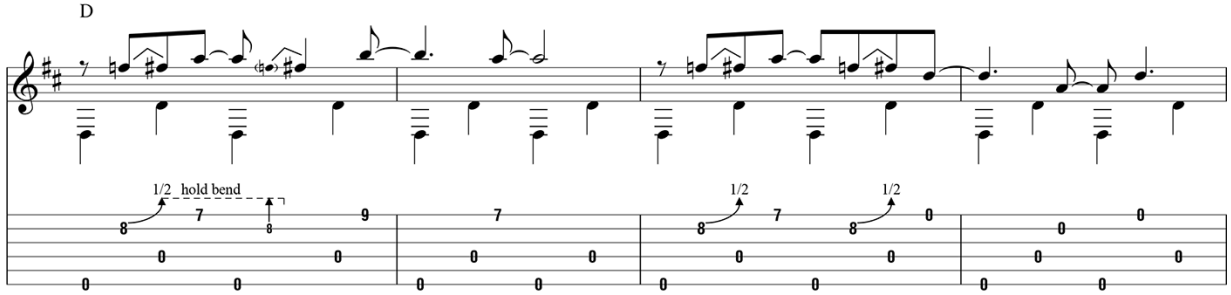
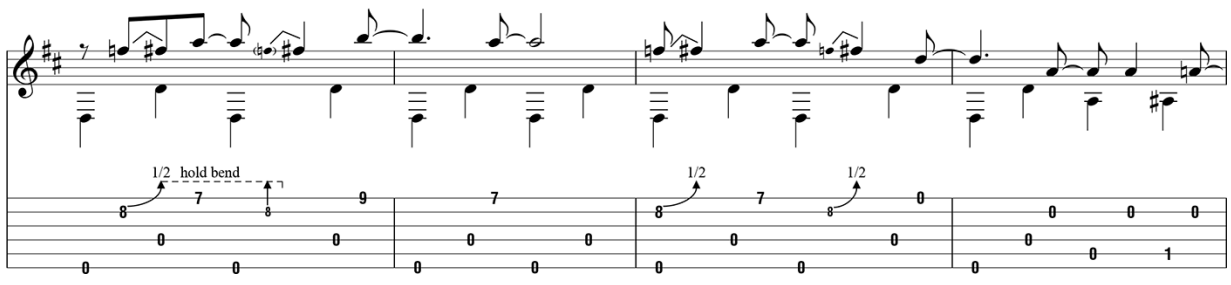
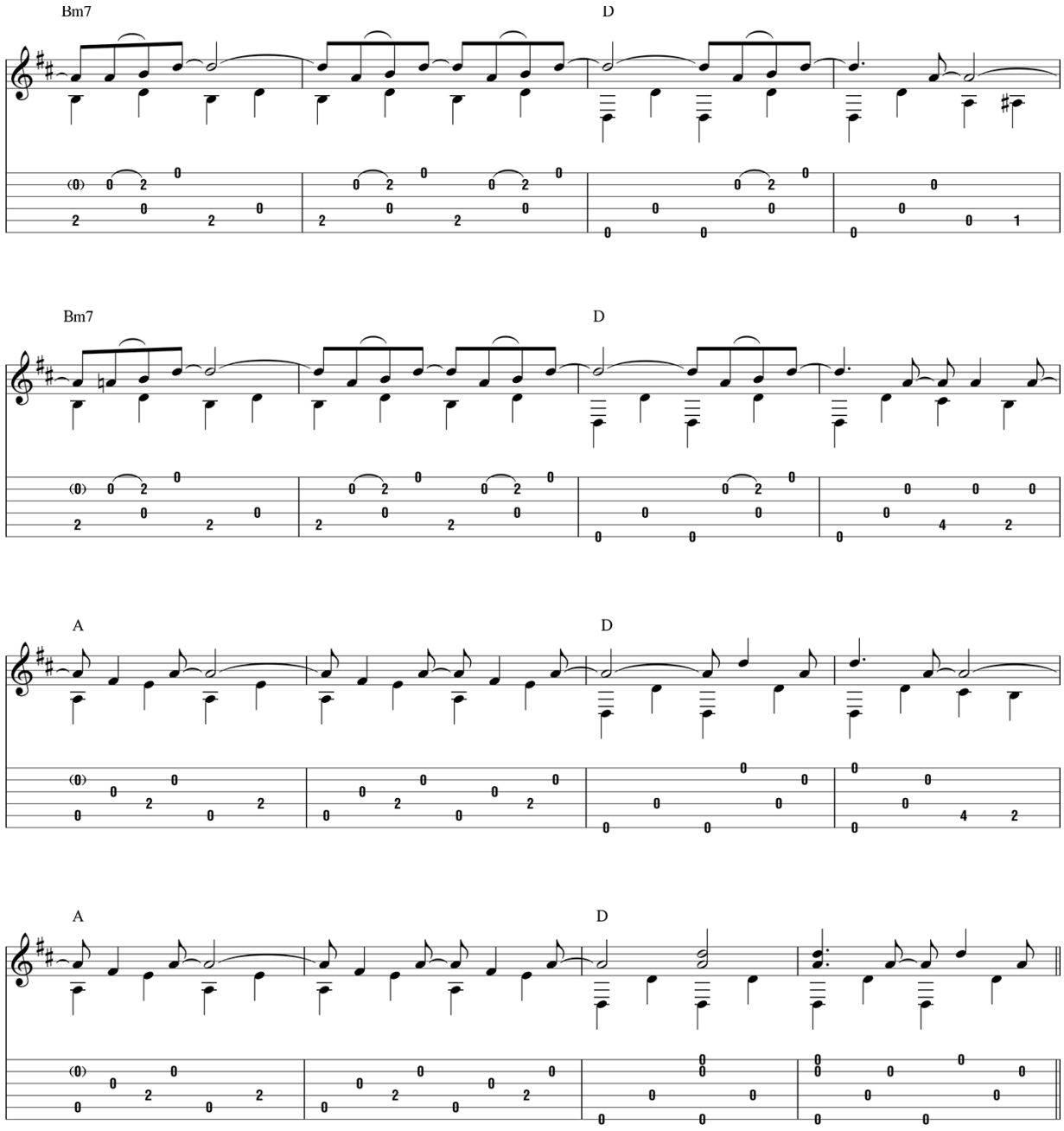
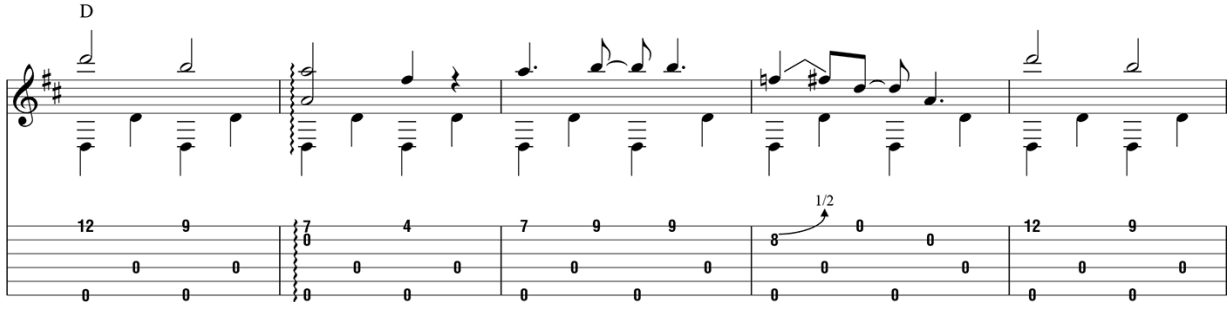
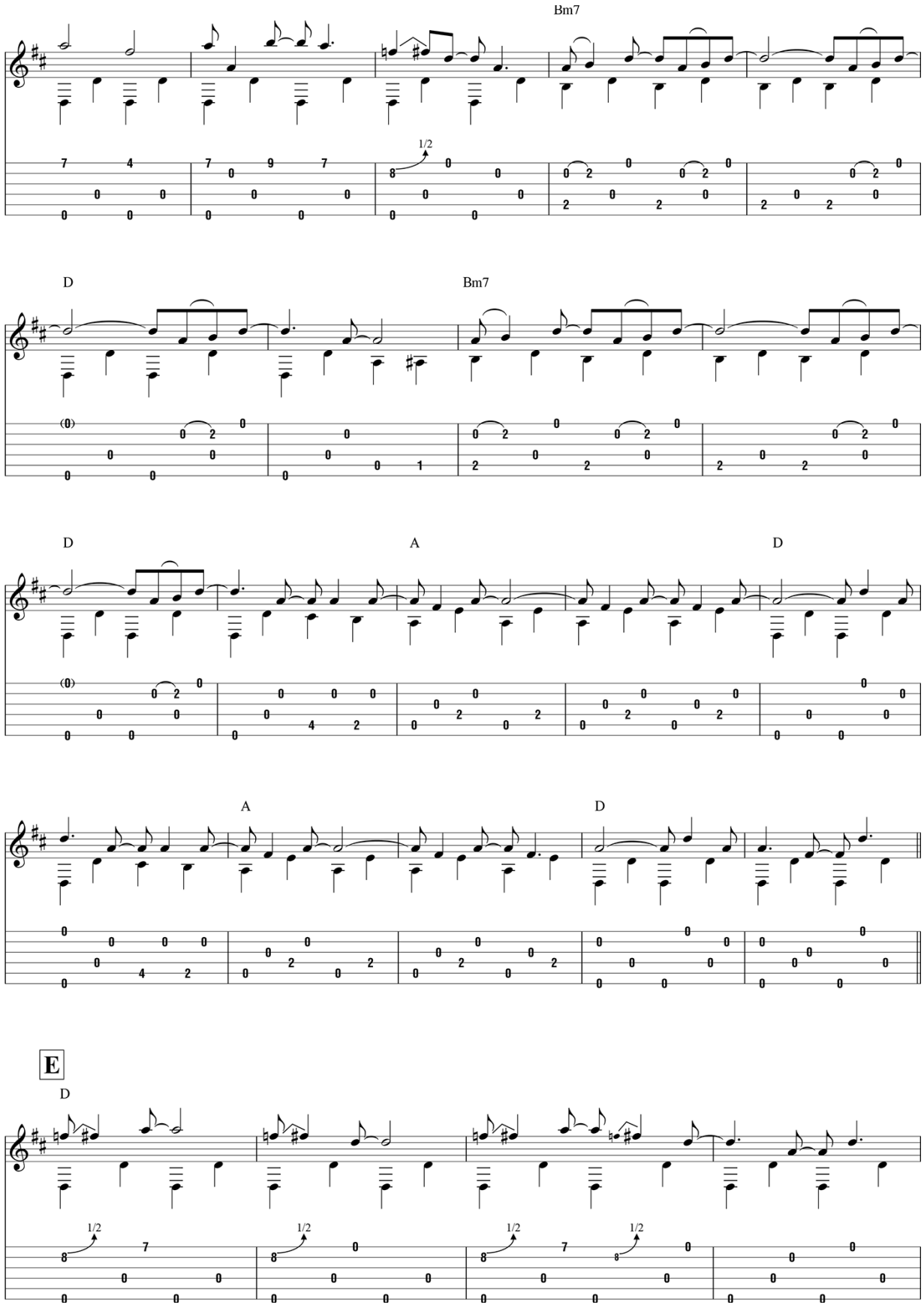


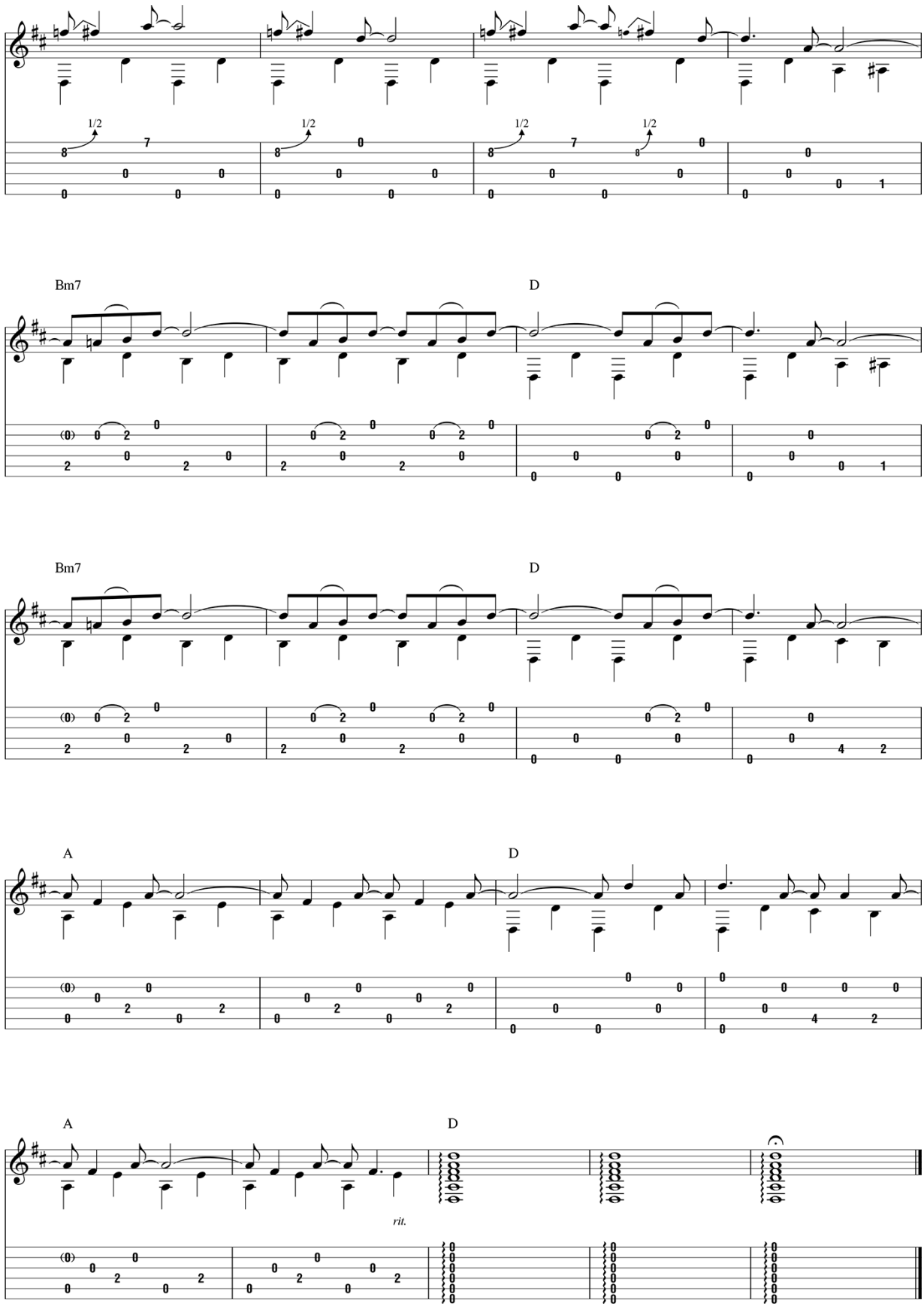




D



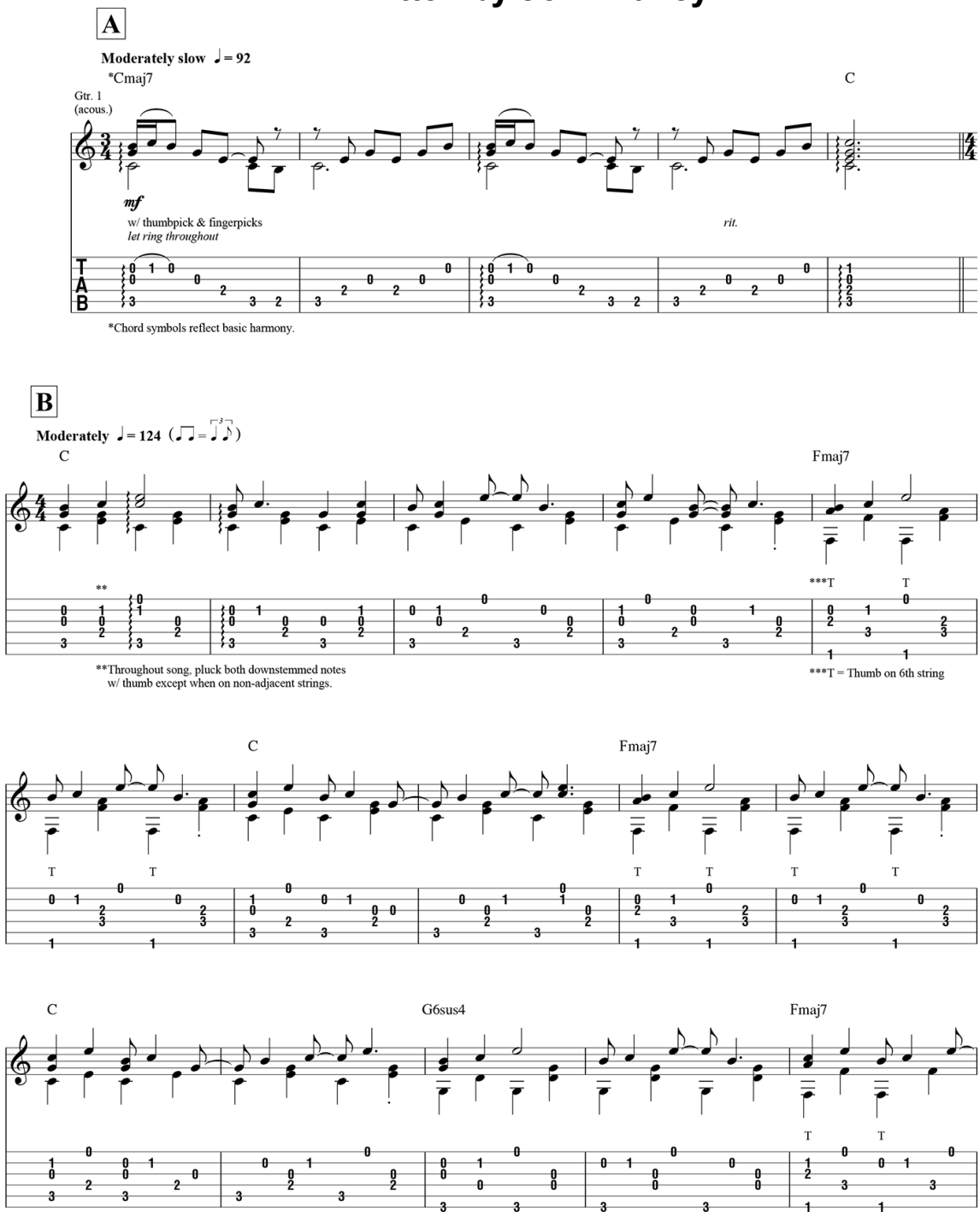

Bm7
1/2
D
Bm7
D
A
D
A
D
E
D
1/2
1/2
1/2
1/2


1/2
1/2
1/2
1/2
Bm7
D
Bm7
D
A
D
A
D
rit.

from *The Legend of Blind Joe Death*

Sligo River Blues

Written by John Fahey



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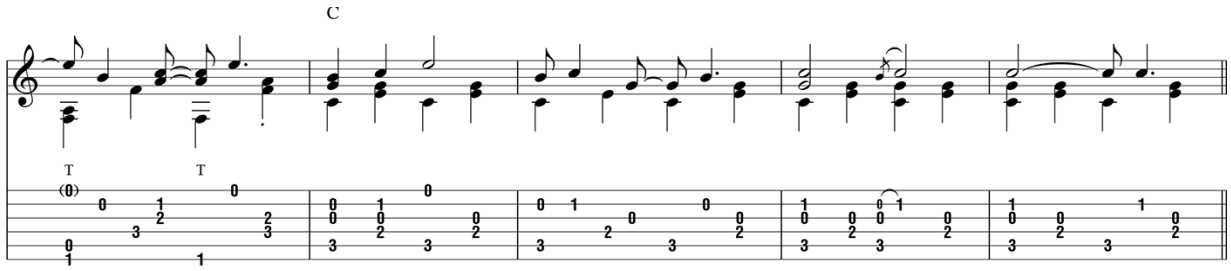

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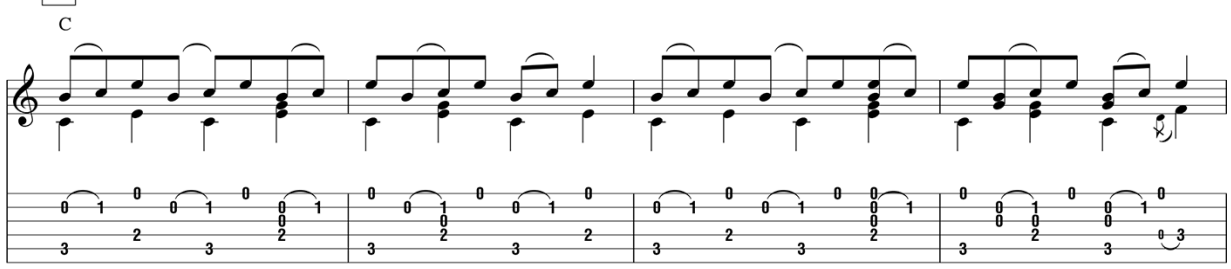
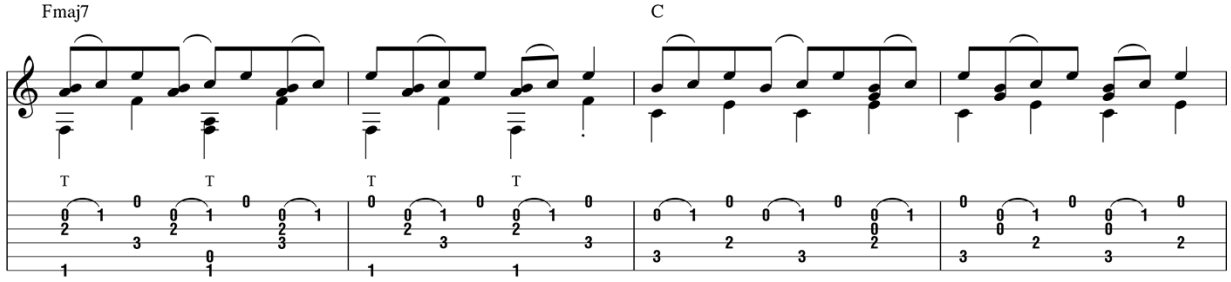
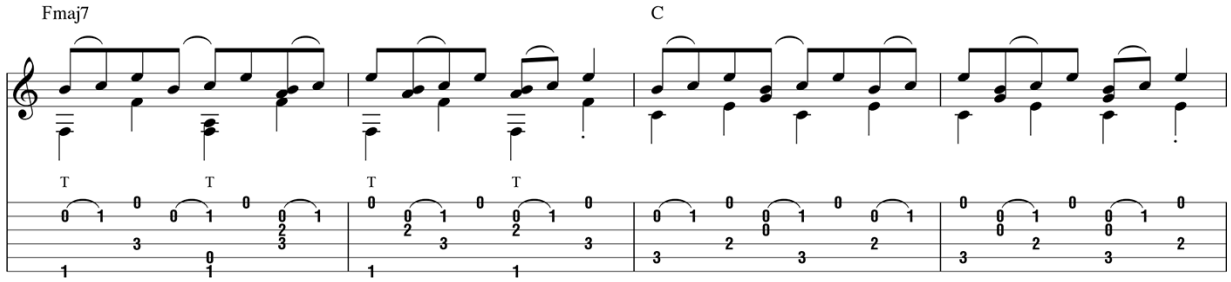
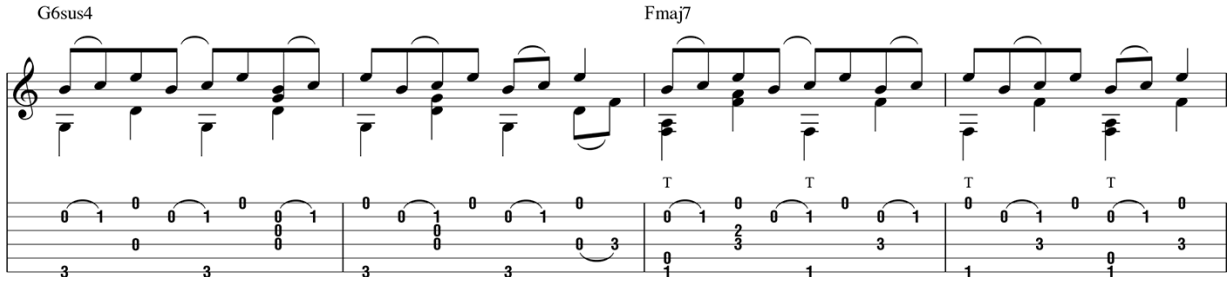
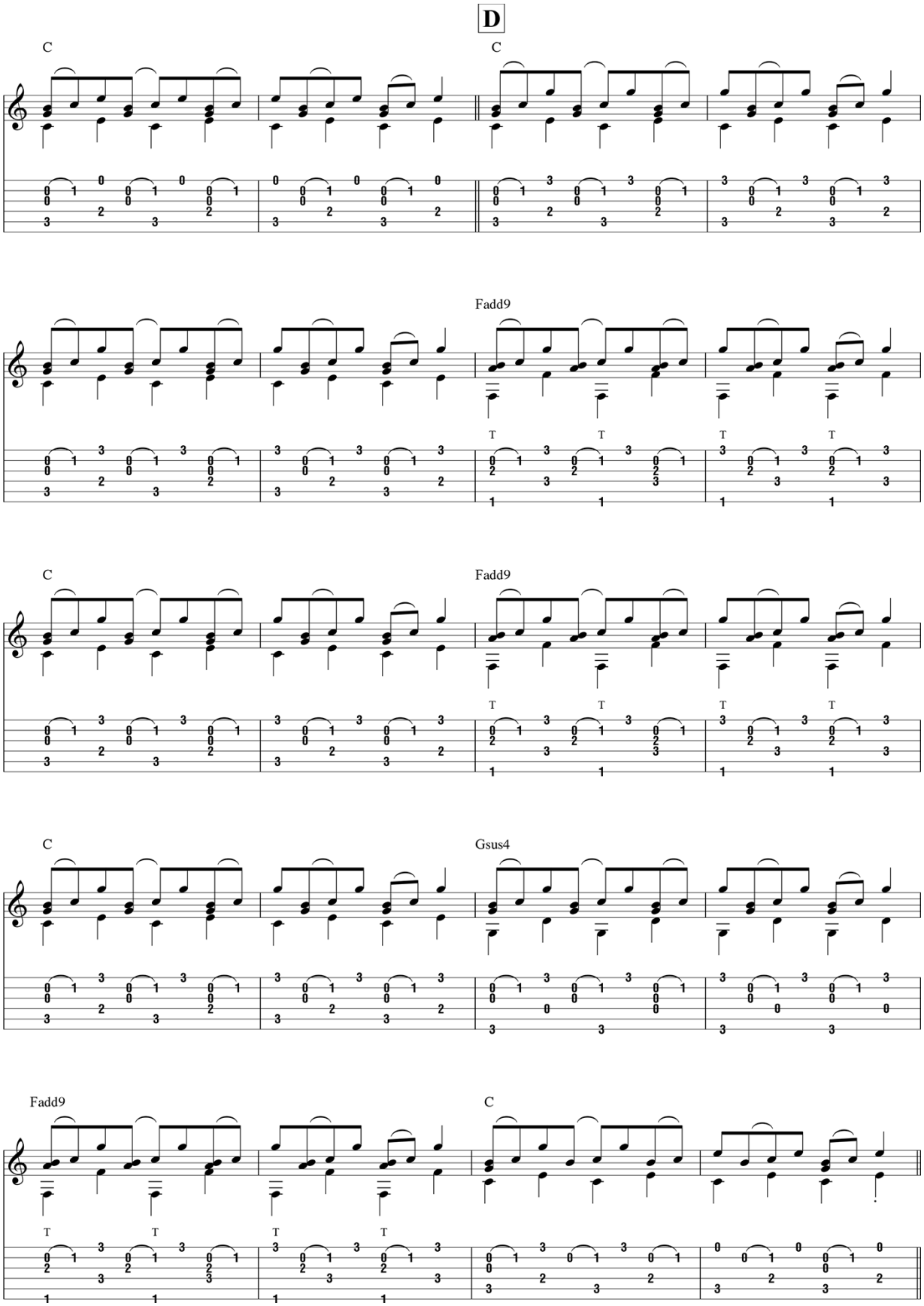
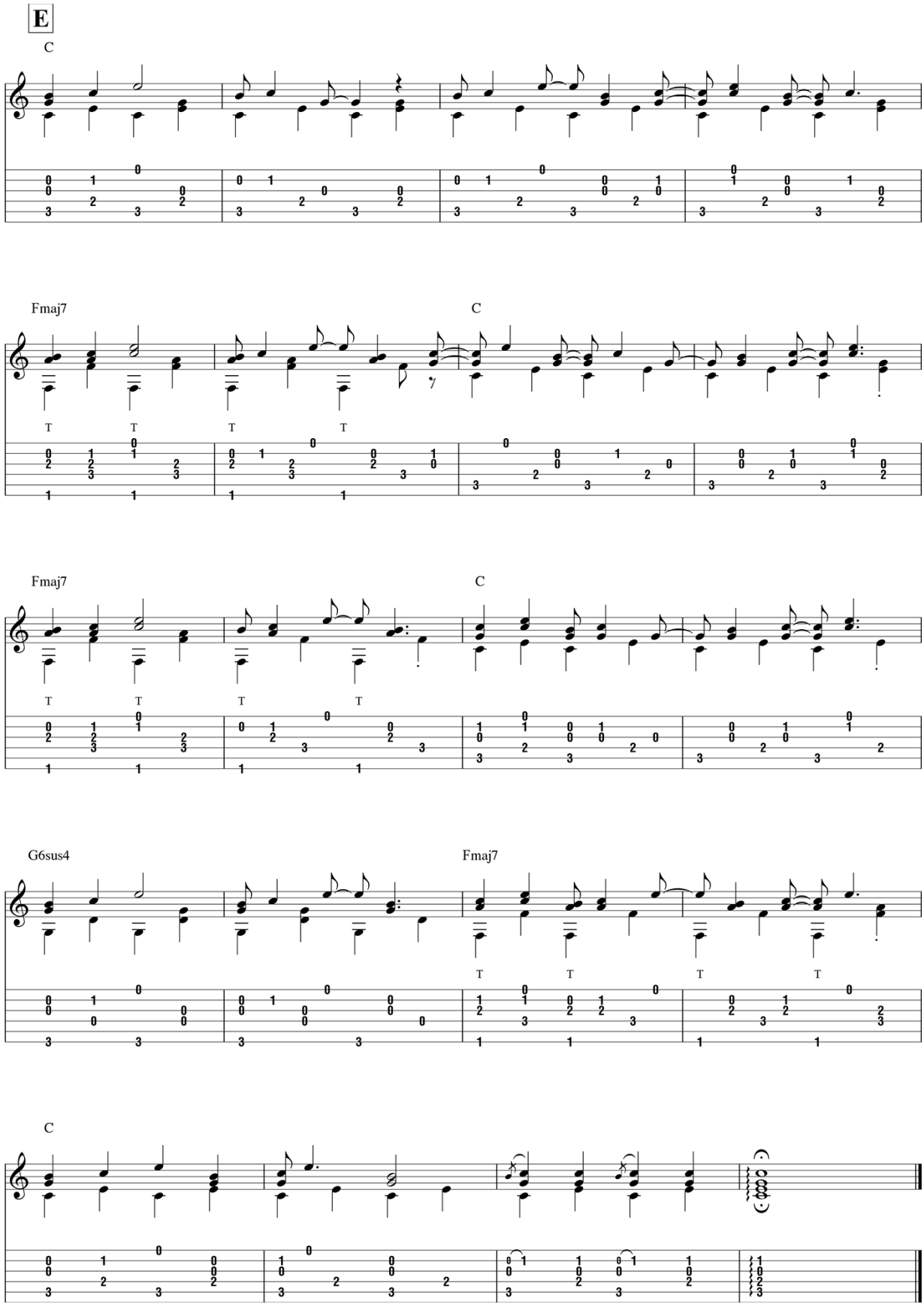








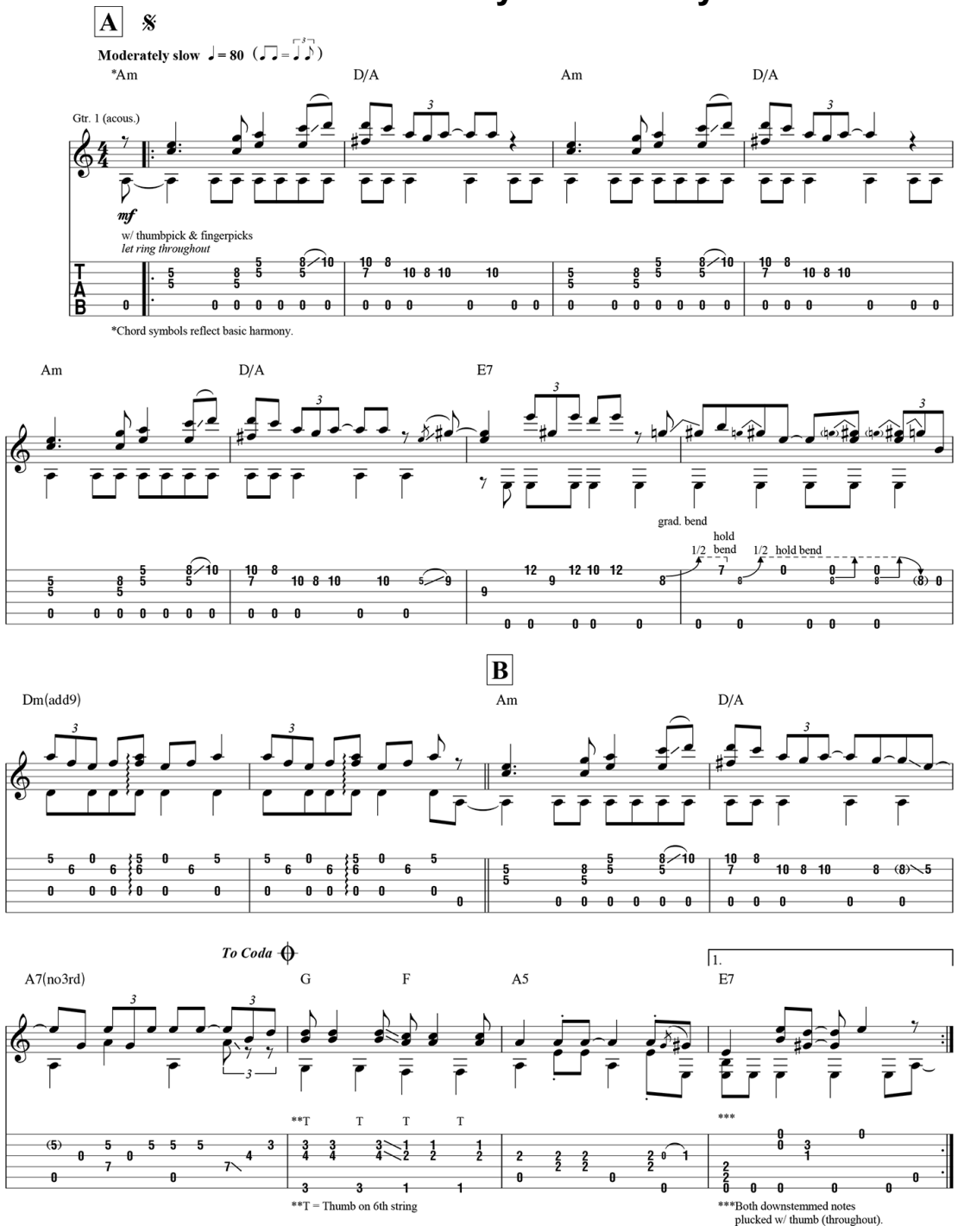

D
C
C
Fadd9
C
Fadd9
C
Gsus4
Fadd9
C


E
C
Fmaj7
C
Fmaj7
C
G6sus4
Fmaj7
C

from *Death Chants, Breakdowns & Military Waltzes*

Some Summer Day

Written by John Fahey



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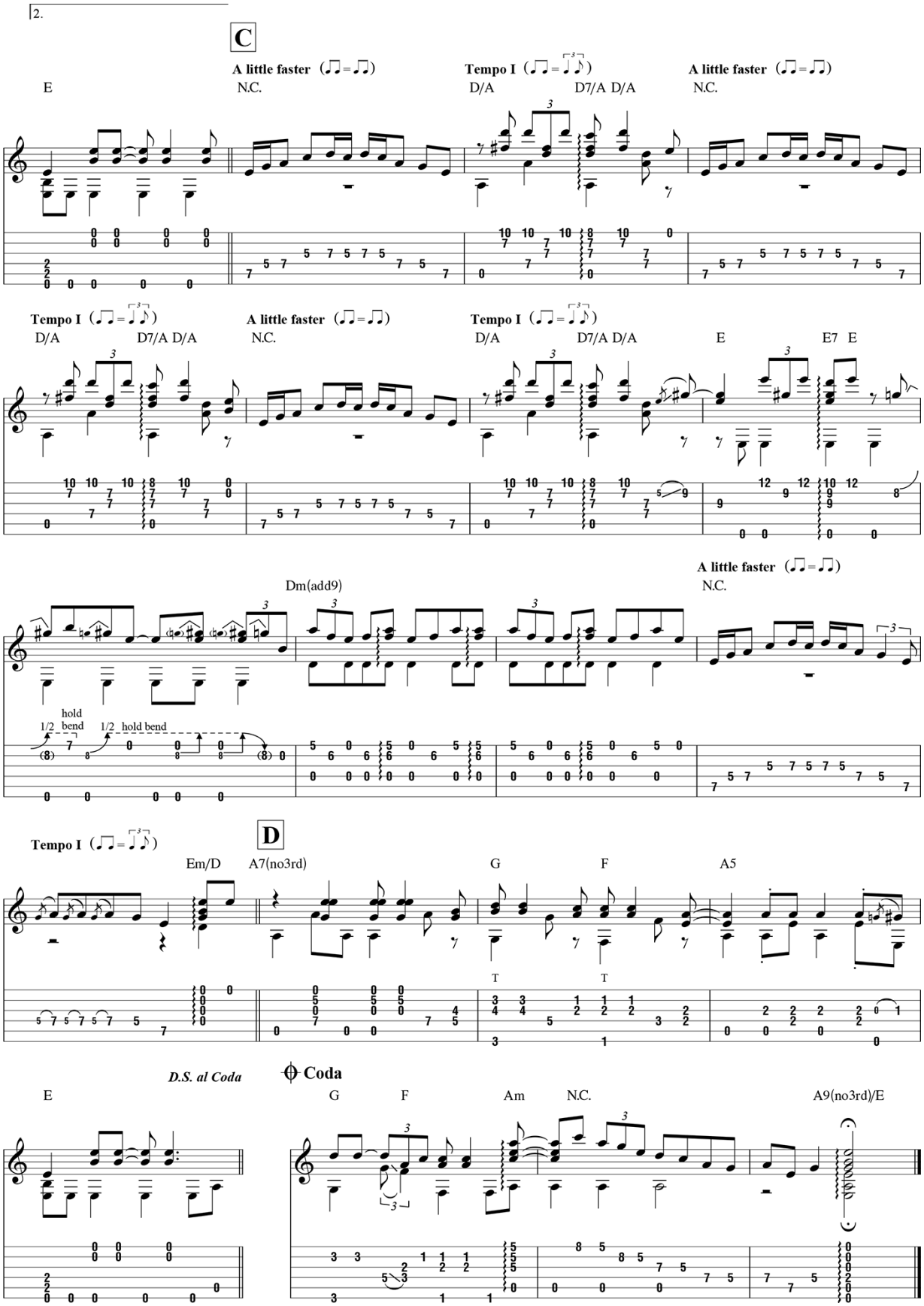
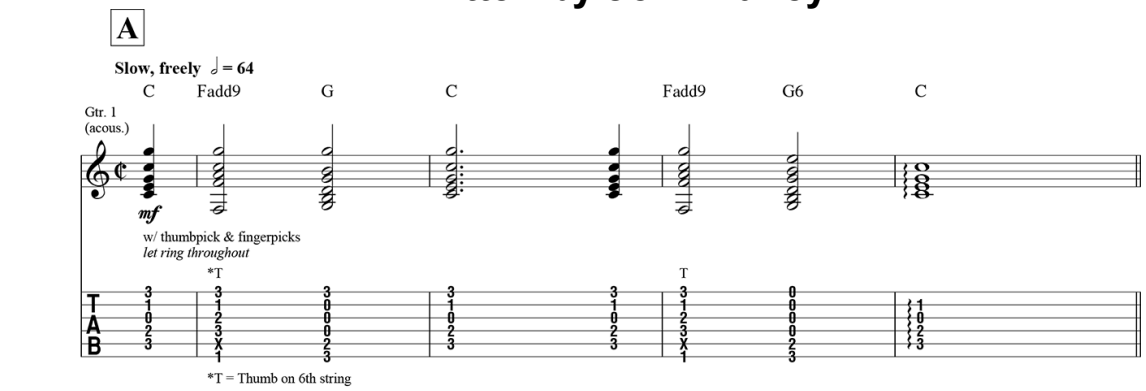
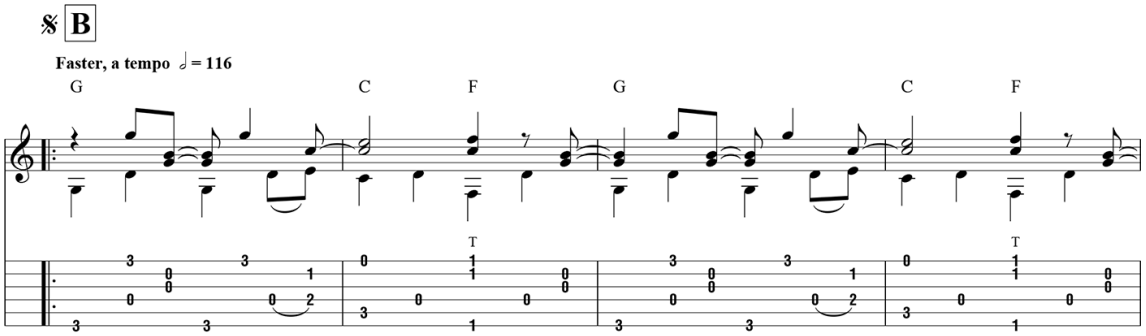

2.
C
A little faster
Tempo I
E
N.C.
D/A
D7/A D/A
E
E7 E
Dm(add9)
hold bend
1/2
D
Em/D
A7(no3rd)
G
F
A5
T
D.S. al Coda
Coda
Am
A9(no3rd)/E

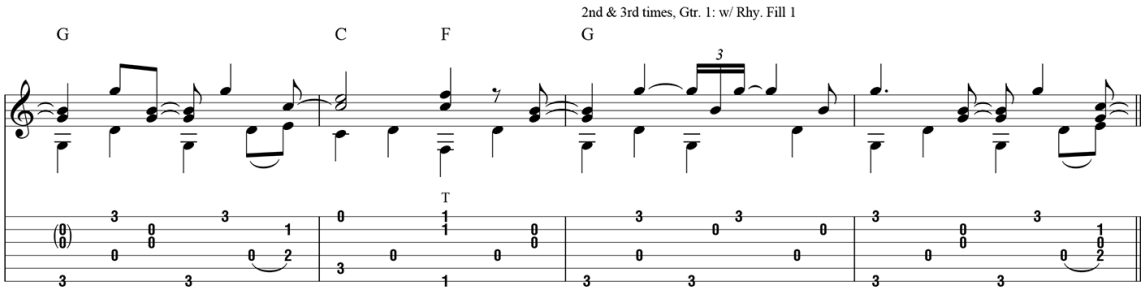
from *Death Chants, Breakdowns & Military Waltzes*

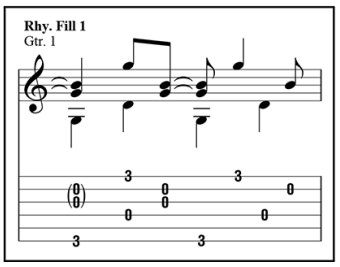
Spanish Dance

Written by John Fahey









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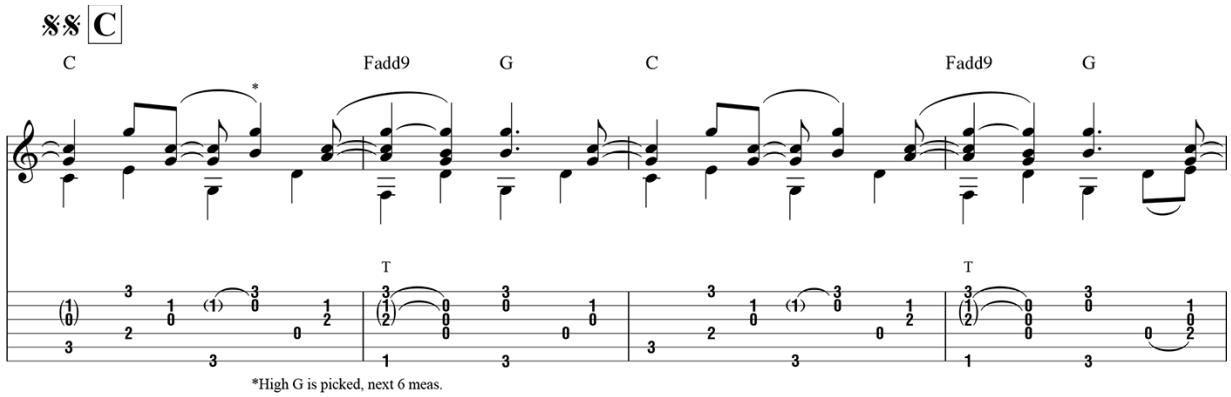
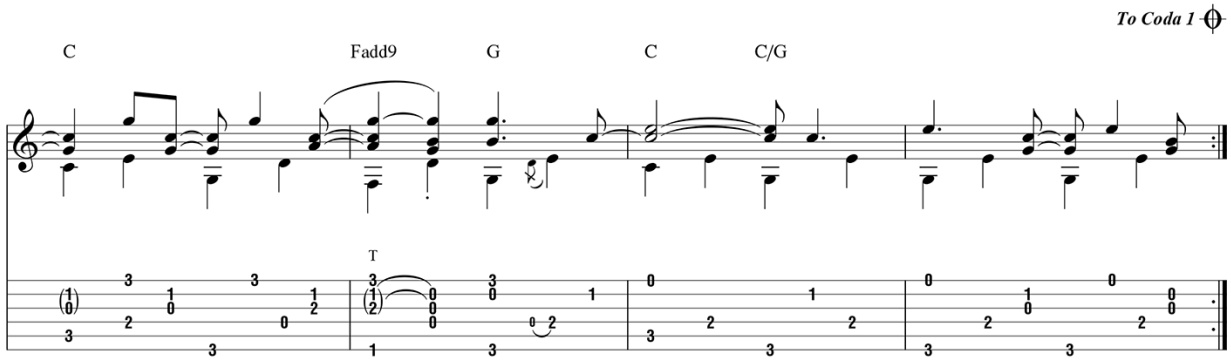
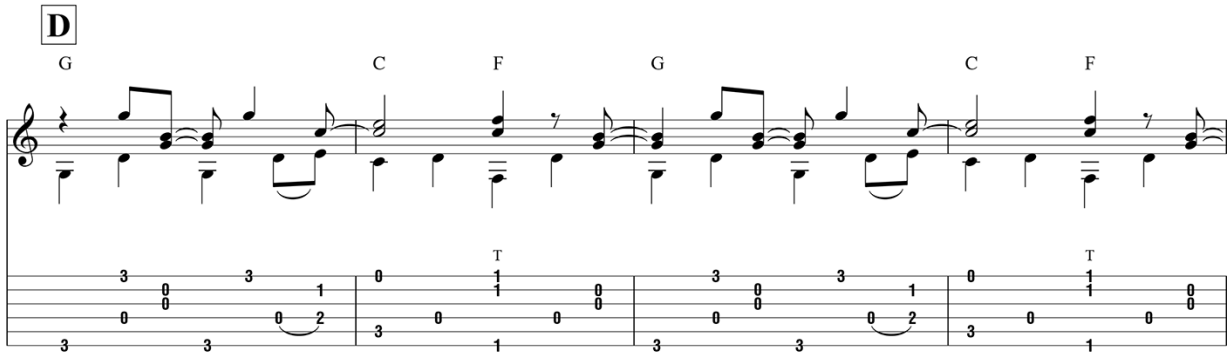
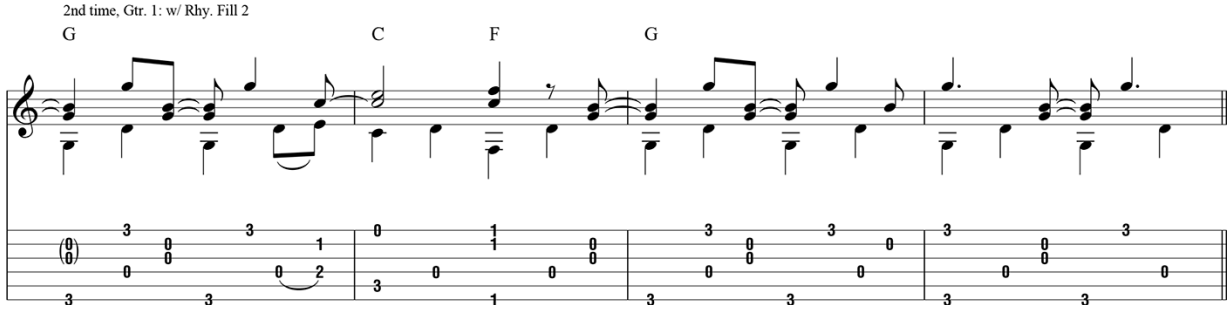
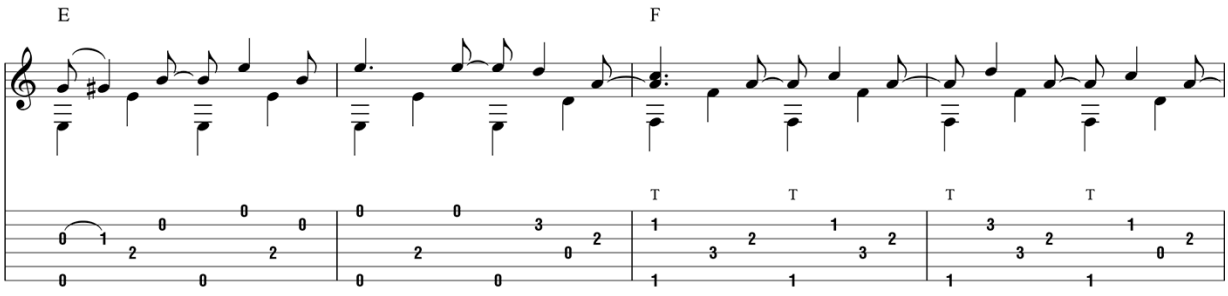

C
Fadd9
G
C
Fadd9
G
T
T
*High G is picked, next 6 meas.


To Coda 1
C
Fadd9
G
C
C/G
T


D
G
C
F
G
C
F
T
T

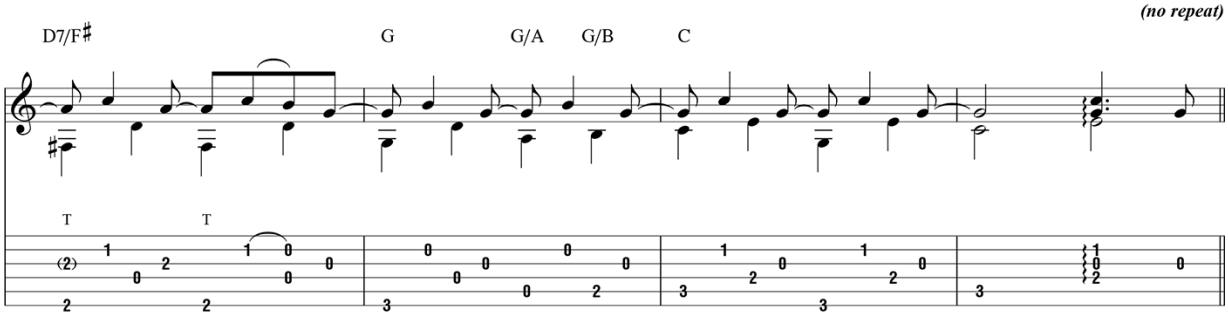

2nd time, Gtr. 1: w/ Rhy. Fill 2
G
C
F
G

E



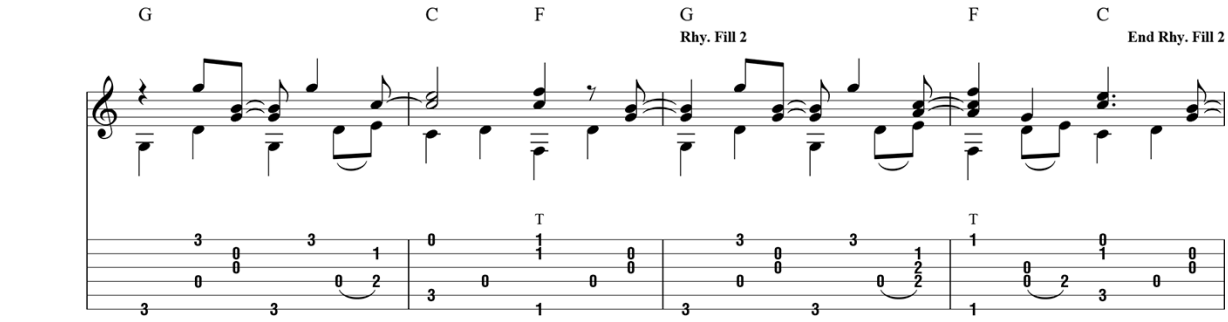
To Coda 2

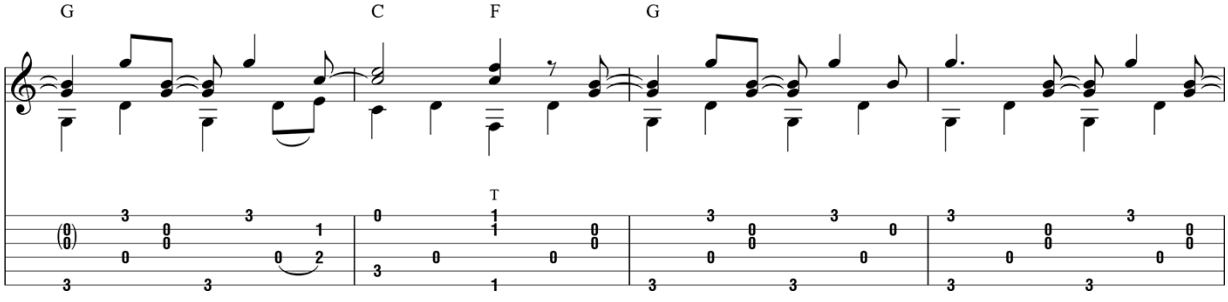
D.S. al Coda 1
(no repeat)

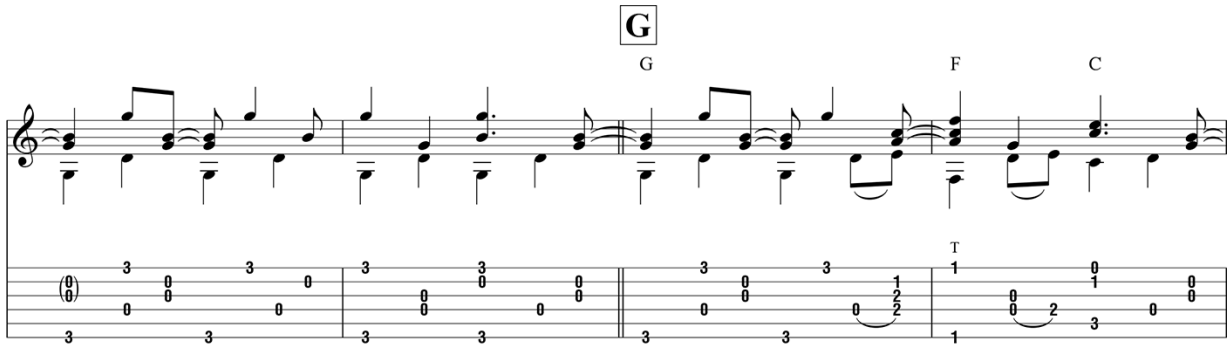


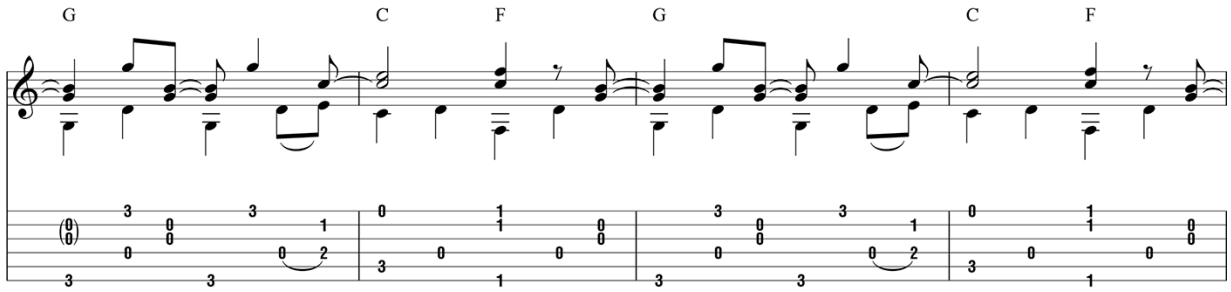
Coda 1

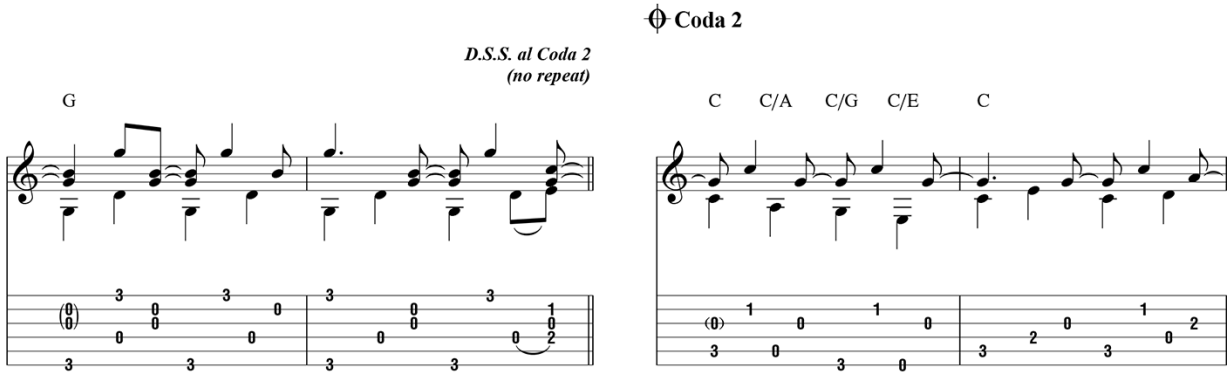
F

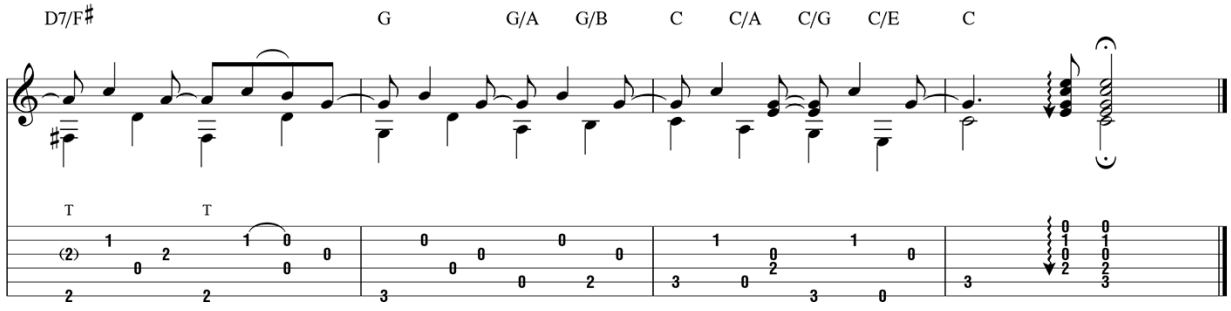





G
G
F
C
T


G
C
F
G
C
F

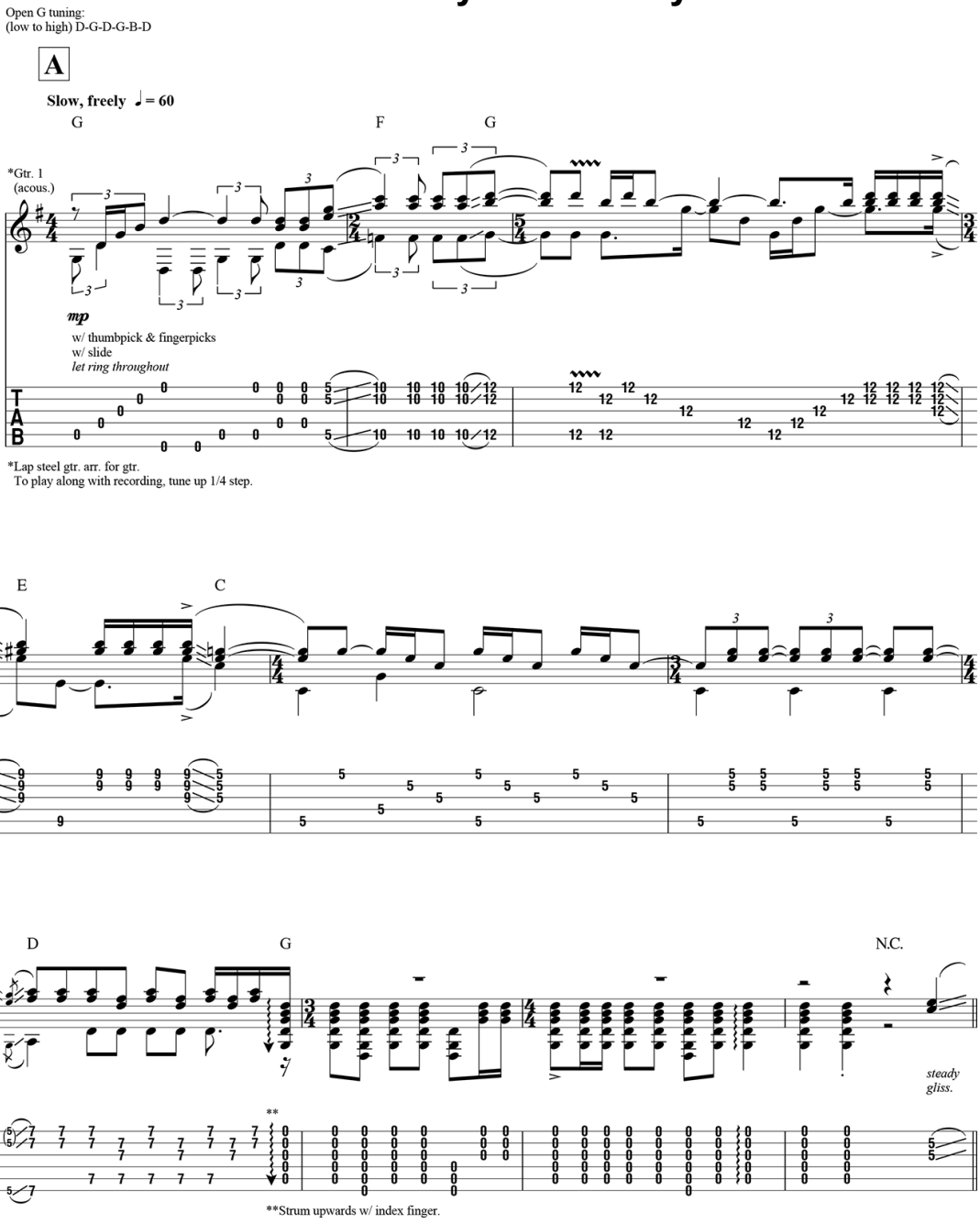

Coda 2
D.S.S. al Coda 2
(no repeat)
G
C
C/A
C/G
C/E
C


D7/F♯
G
G/A
G/B
C
C/A
C/G
C/E
C
T
T

from *Live in Tasmania*

Steamboat Gwine 'Round De Bend

Written by John Fahey



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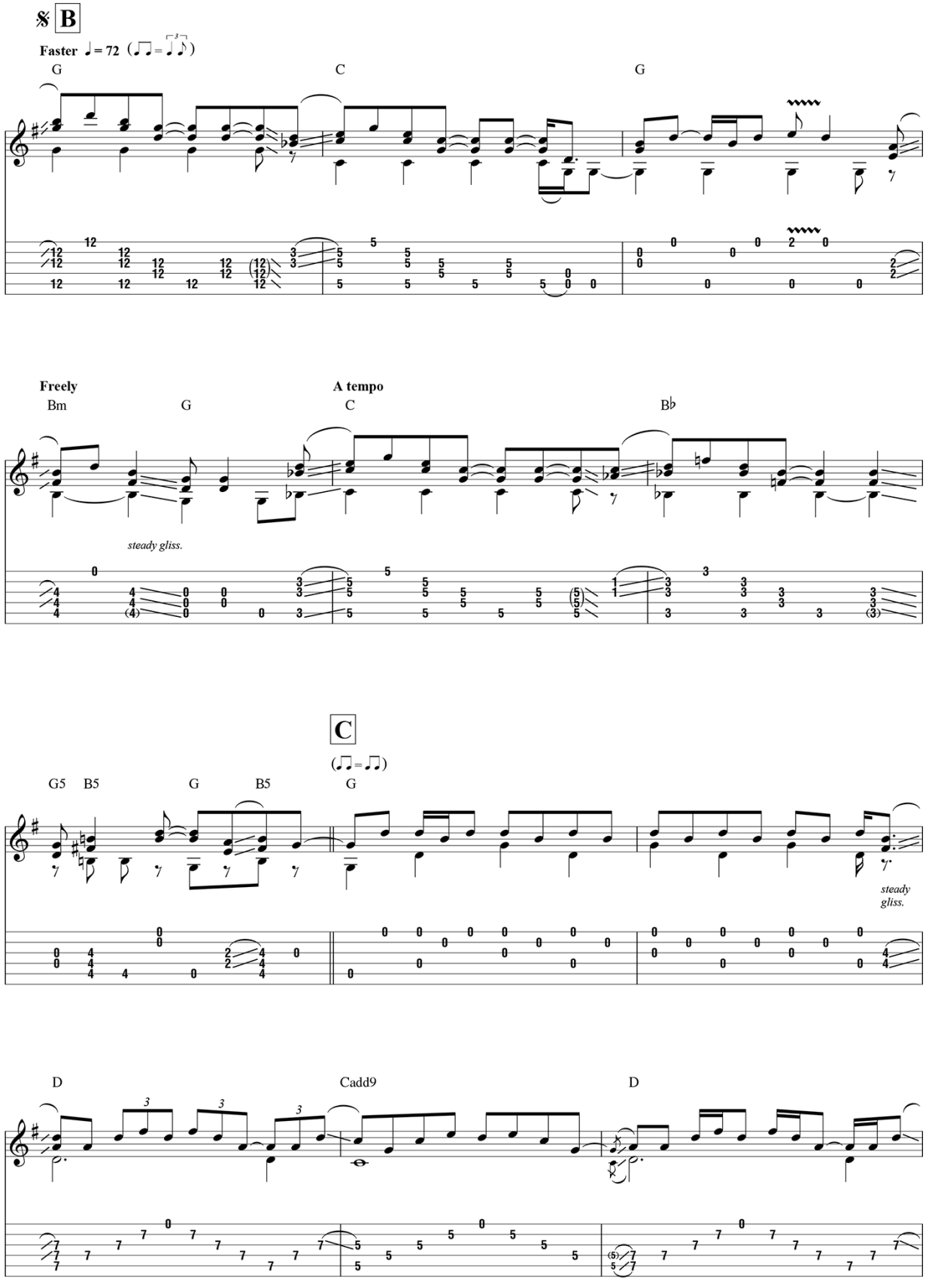
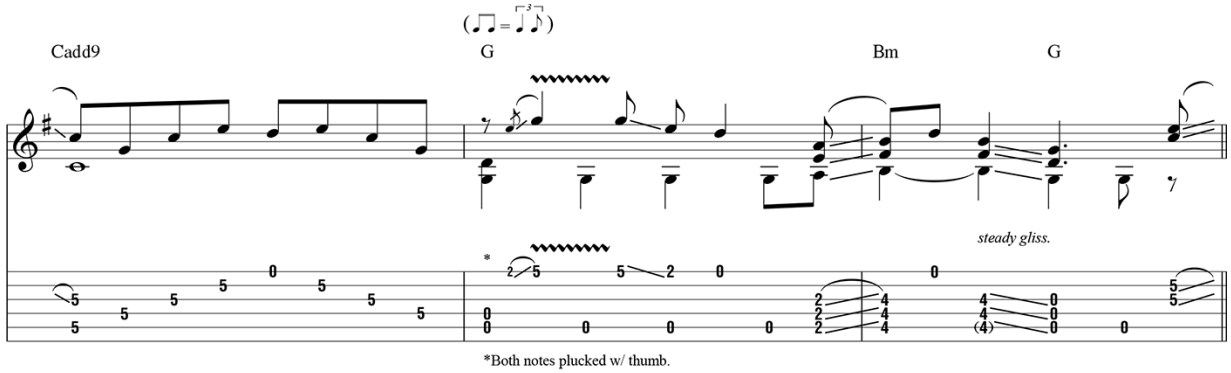
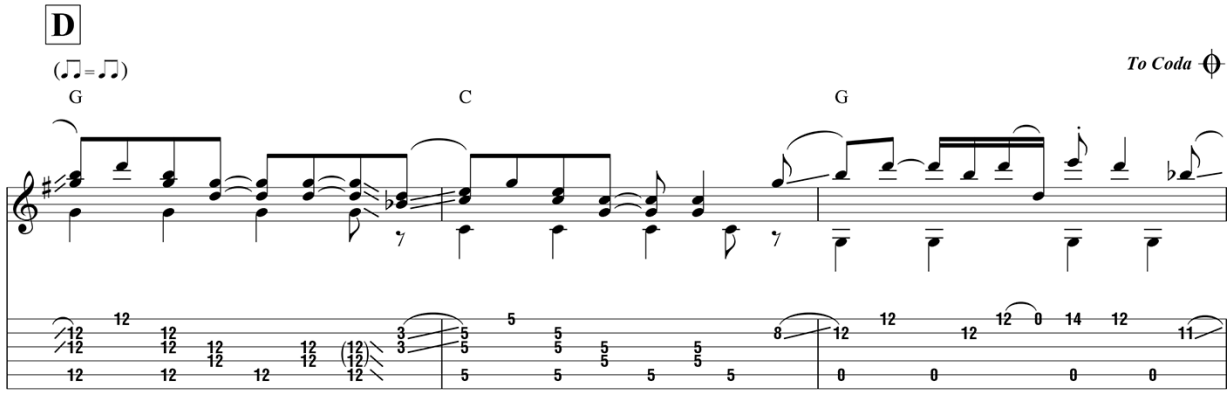
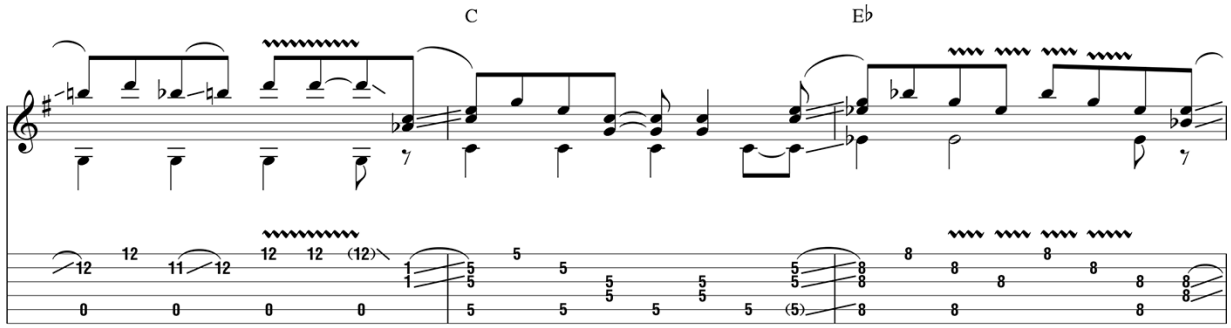
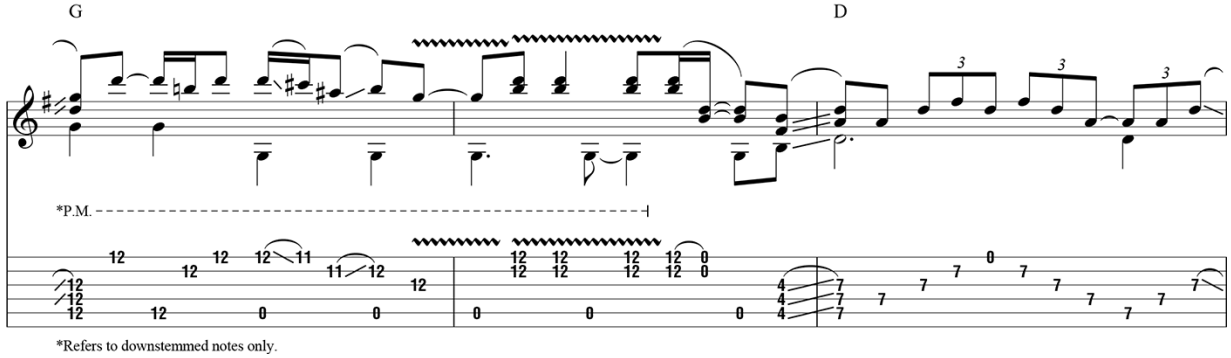
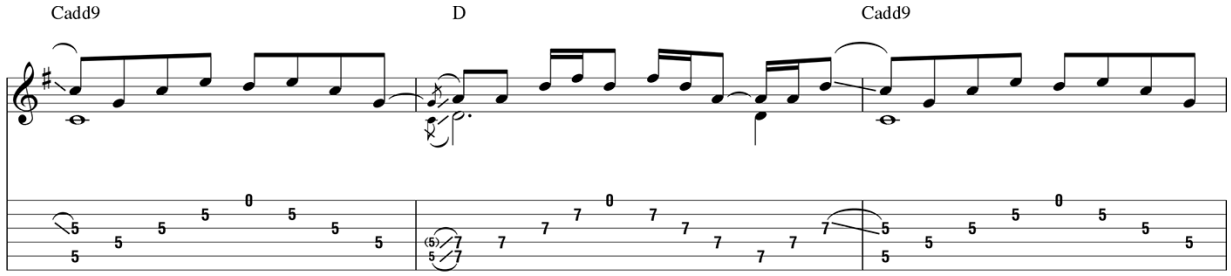

B
Faster ♩= 72 (♫=♪³♪)
G
C
G
Freely
A tempo
Bm
G
C
B♭
steady gliss.
C
(♫=♫)
G5
B5
G
B5
G
steady gliss.
D
Cadd9
D

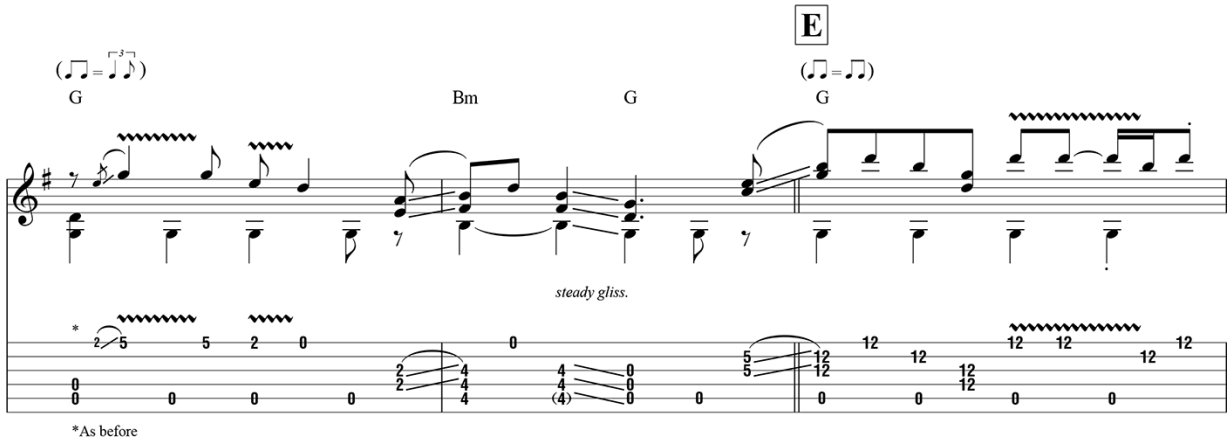

Cadd9
G
Bm
G
steady gliss.
*Both notes plucked w/ thumb.

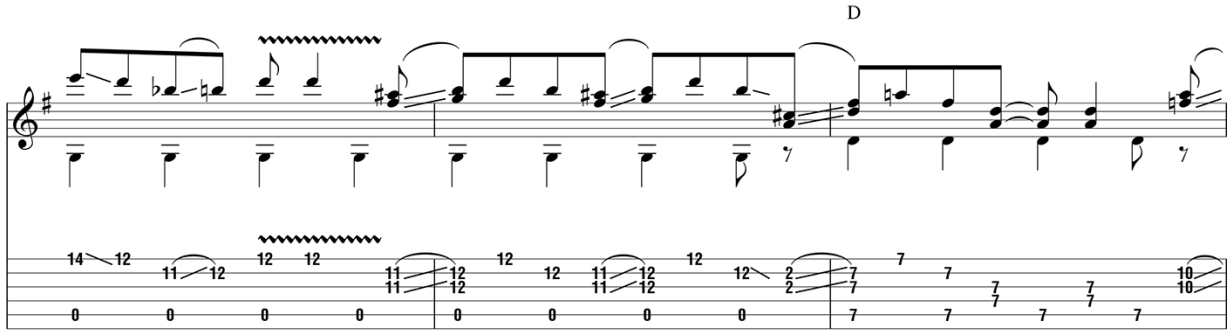

D
G
C
G
To Coda

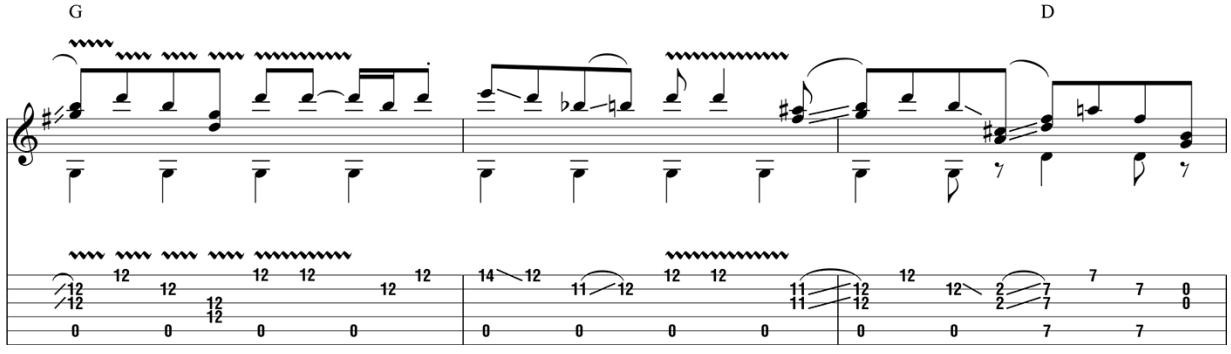

C
E♭


G
D
*P.M.
*Refers to downstemmed notes only.


Cadd9
D
Cadd9


E
G
Bm
G
G
steady gliss.
*As before


D


G
D

F

G G

steady gliss.

* *As before

D E♭ E F F♯ G

D.S. al Coda

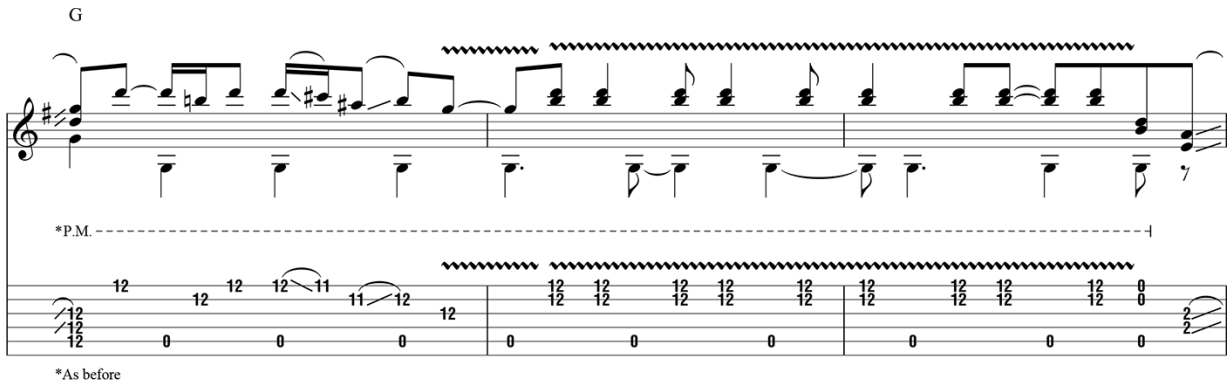
Freely

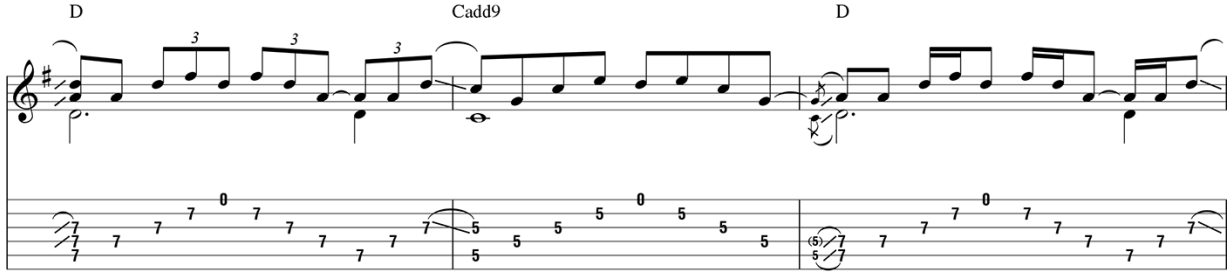
D G

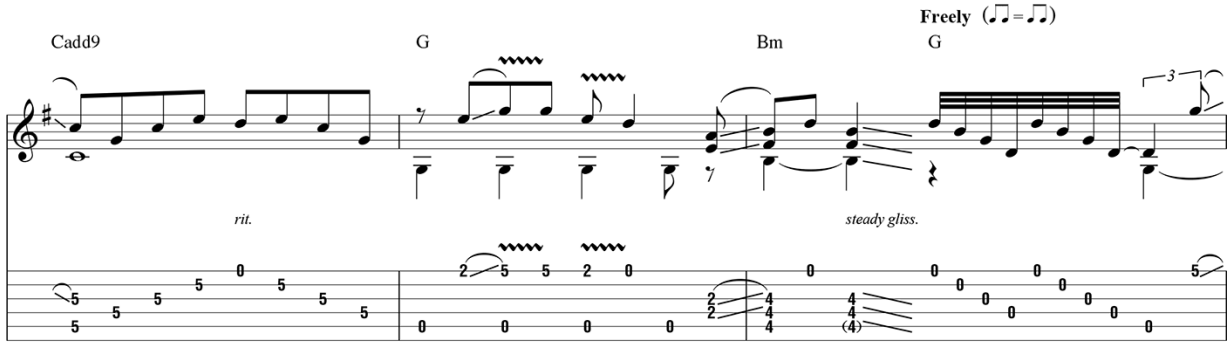
steady gliss.

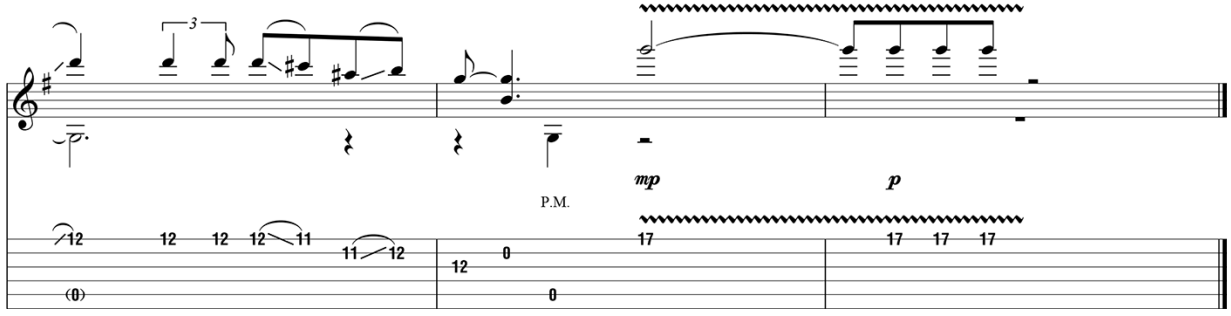
Coda

C E♭


G
*P.M.
*As before


D
Cadd9
D

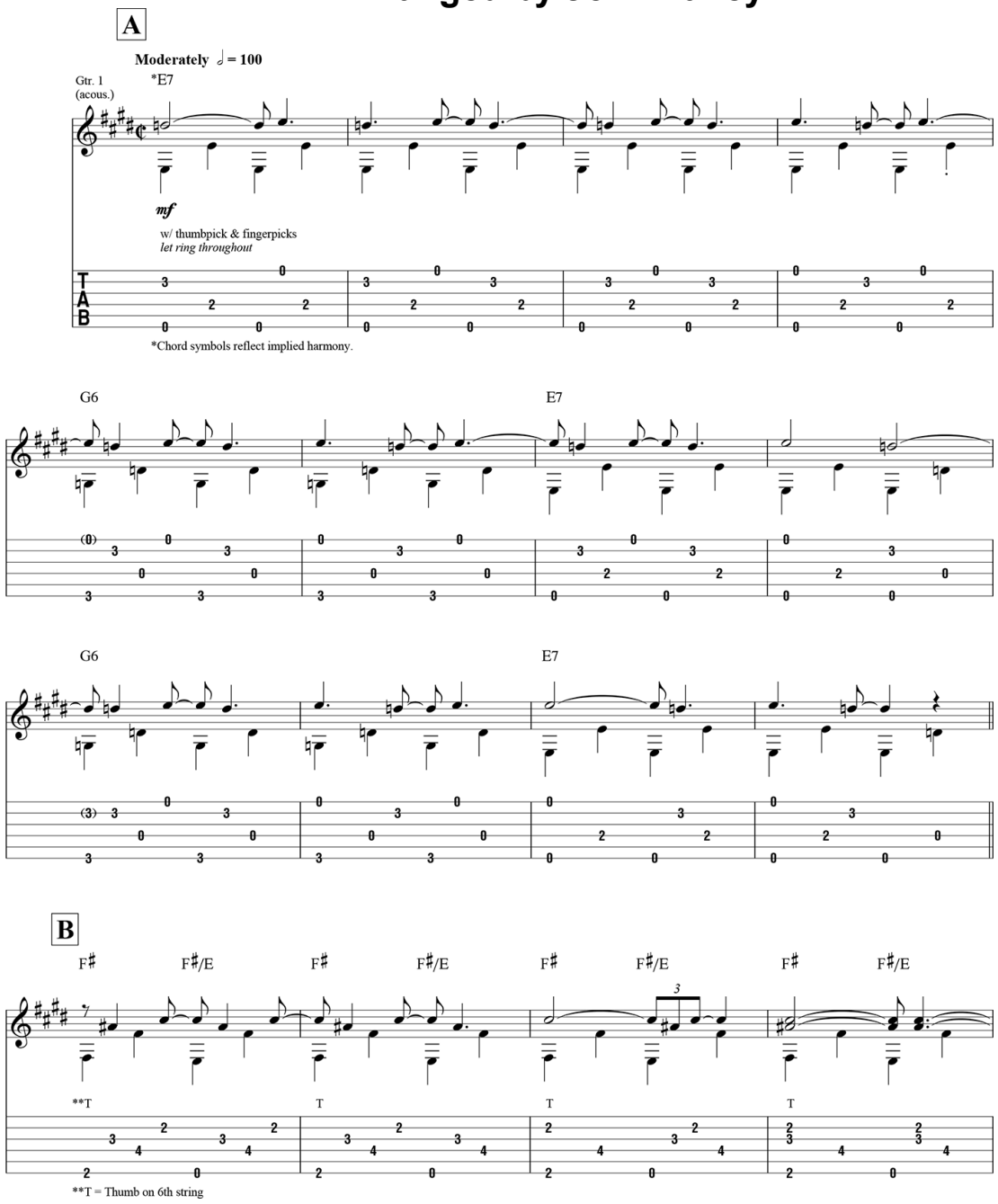

Cadd9
G
Bm
G
Freely (♫ = ♫)
rit.
steady gliss.


mp
p
P.M.

from *The Legend of Blind Joe Death*

Sun's Gonna Shine In My Backdoor Someday Blues

Arranged by John Fahey



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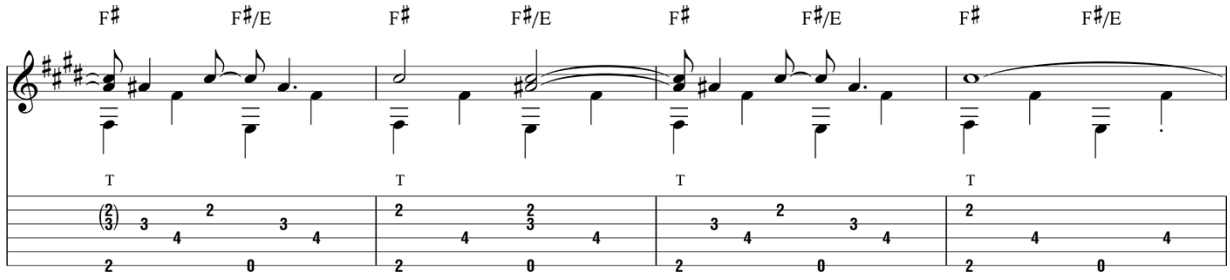
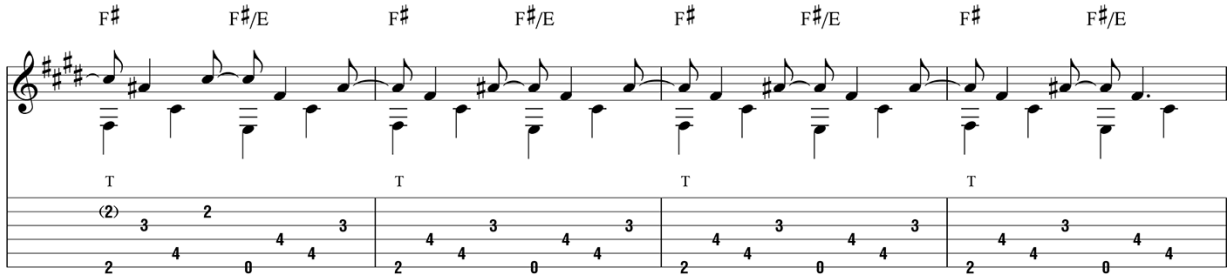
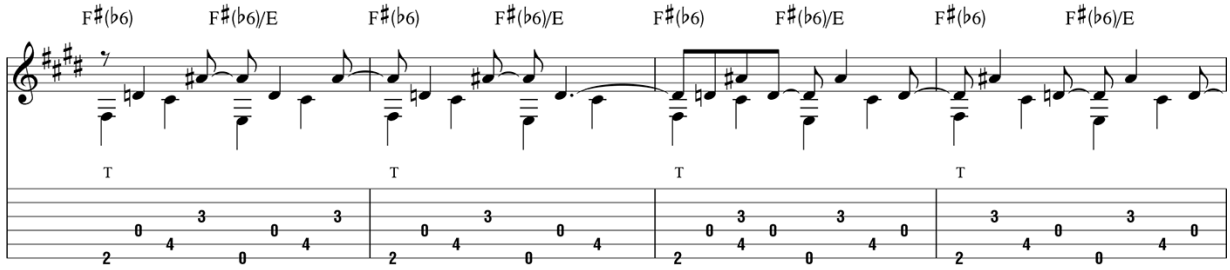
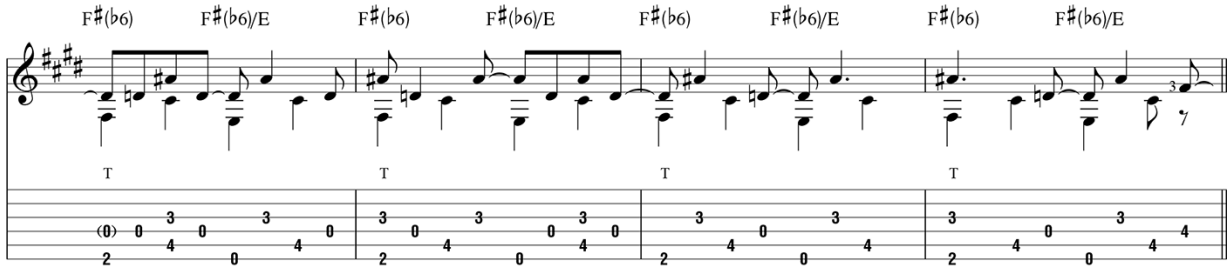
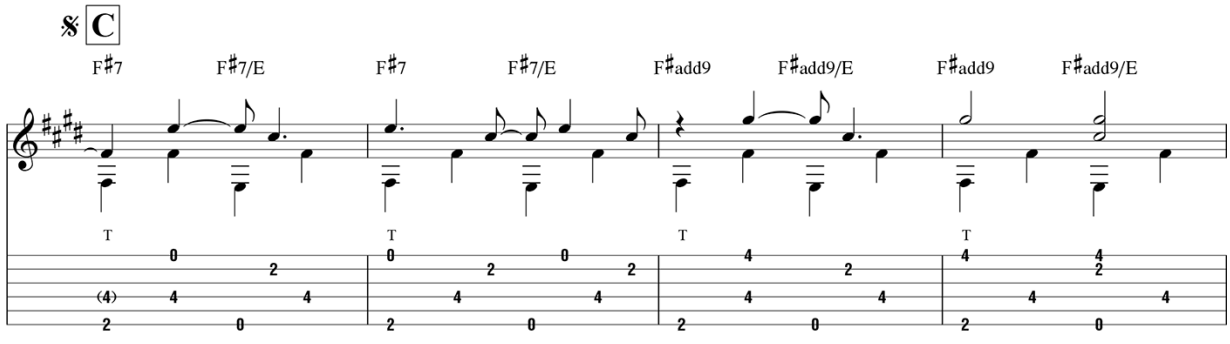
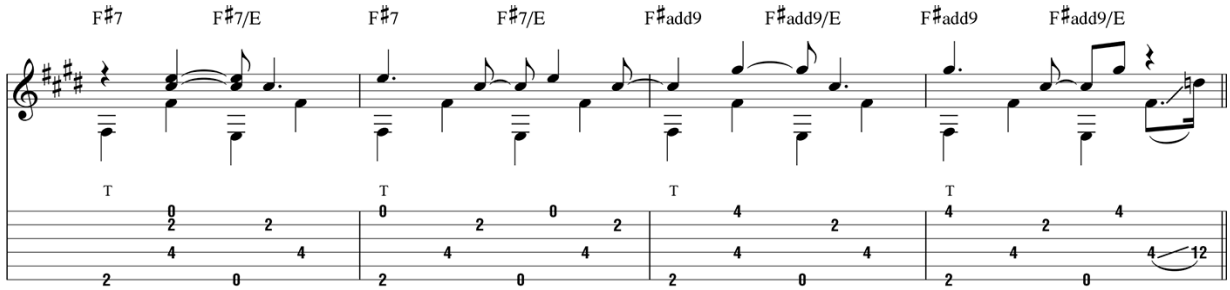

F♯ F♯/E F♯ F♯/E F♯ F♯/E F♯ F♯/E


F♯ F♯/E F♯ F♯/E F♯ F♯/E F♯ F♯/E

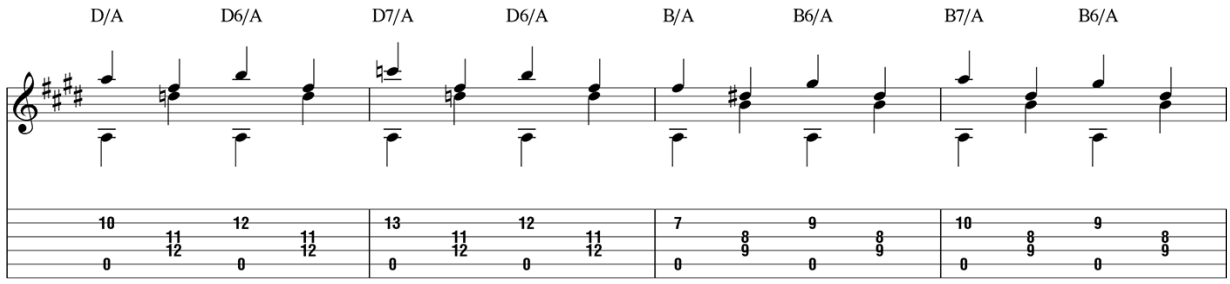

F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E

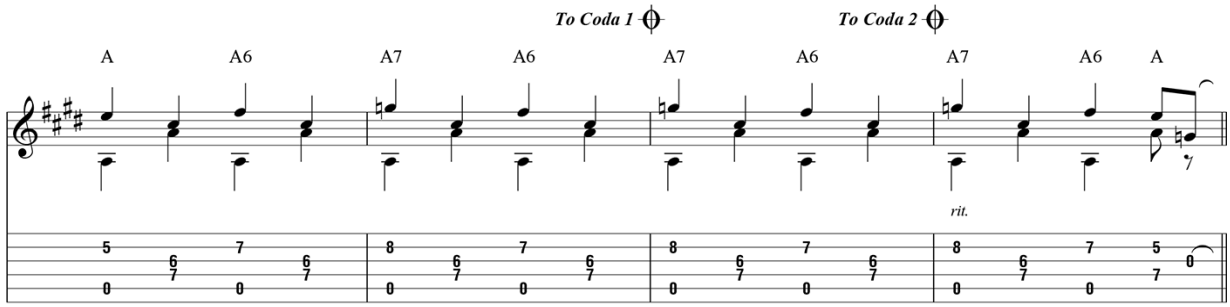

F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E


𝄋 C
F♯7 F♯7/E F♯7 F♯7/E F♯add9 F♯add9/E F♯add9 F♯add9/E


F♯7
F♯7/E
F♯7
F♯7/E
F♯add9
F♯add9/E
F♯add9
F♯add9/E
T
T
T
T

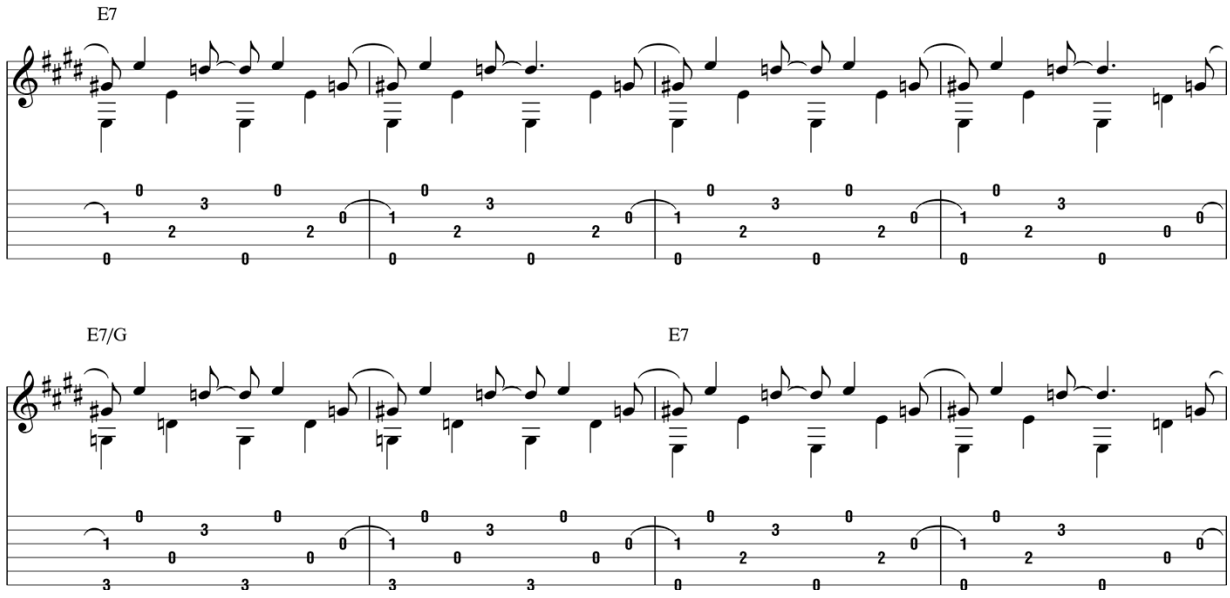
D

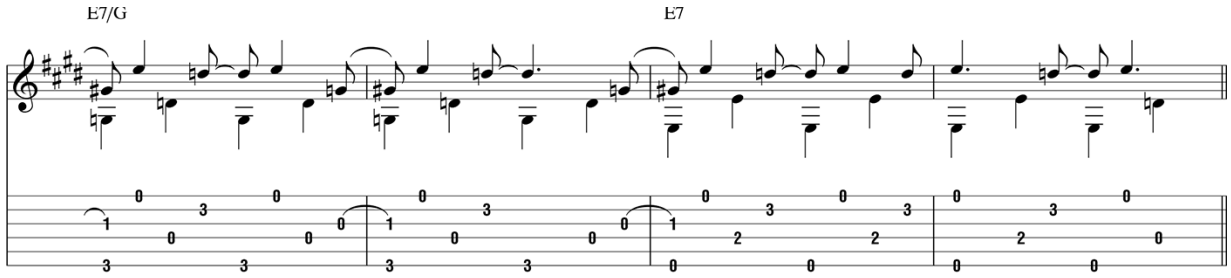

D/A
D6/A
D7/A
D6/A
B/A
B6/A
B7/A
B6/A


To Coda 1
To Coda 2
A
A6
A7
A6
A7
A6
A7
A6
A
rit.

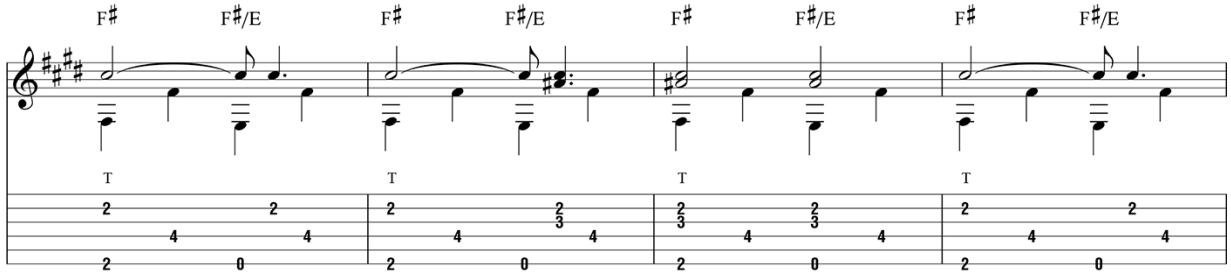
E

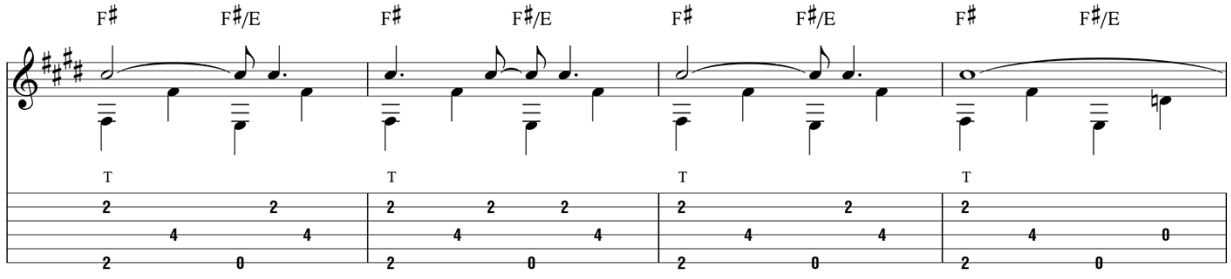
A tempo

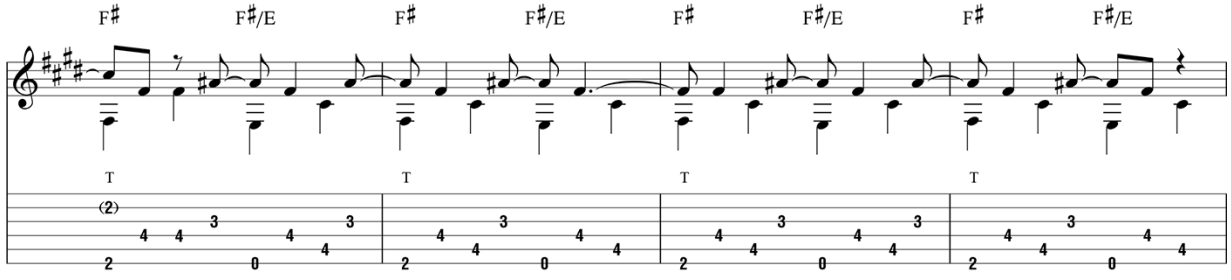

E7
E7/G
E7

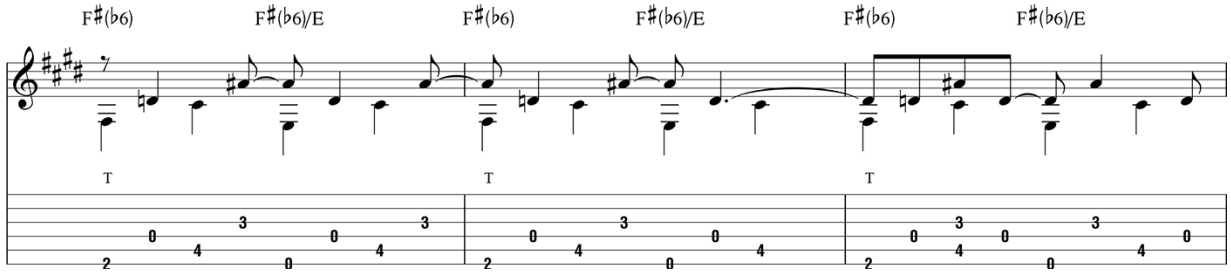

E7/G
E7

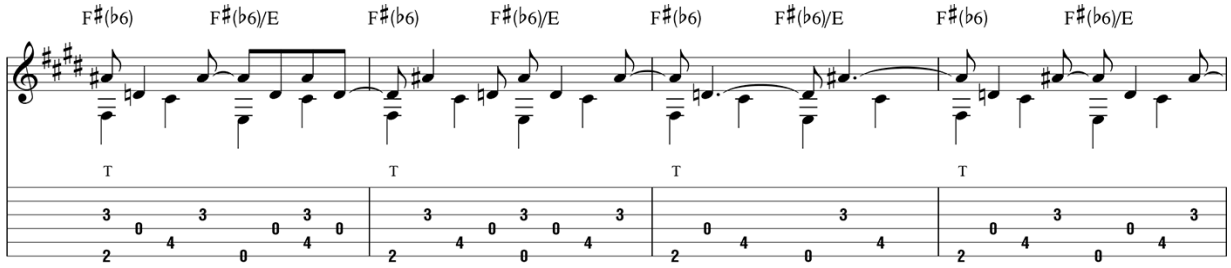
F

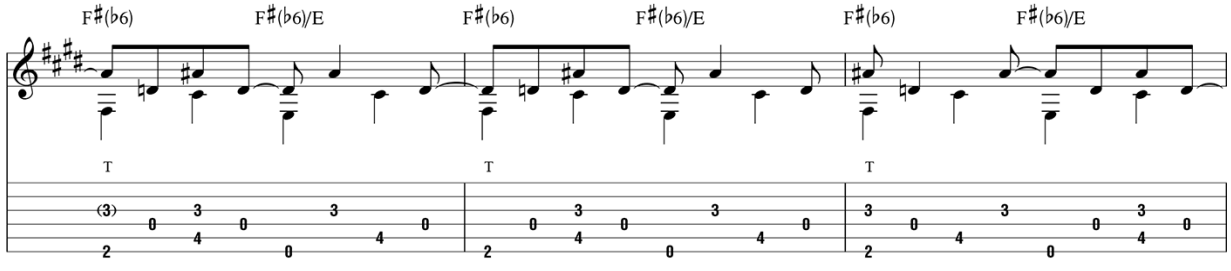

F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E


F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E

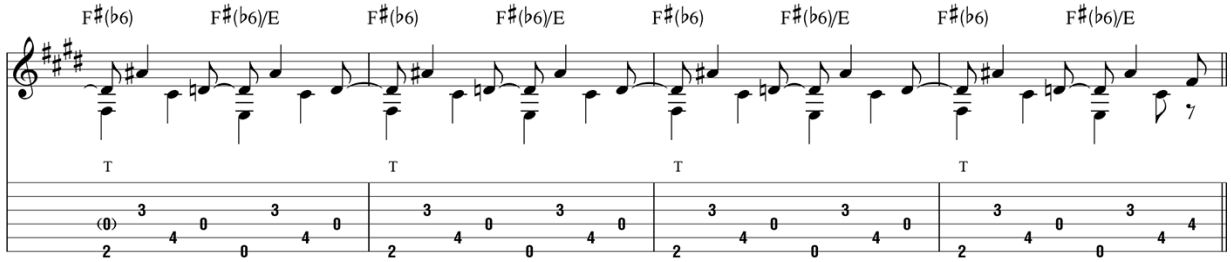

F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E


F♯(♭6)
F♯(♭6)/E
F♯(♭6)
F♯(♭6)/E
F♯(♭6)
F♯(♭6)/E





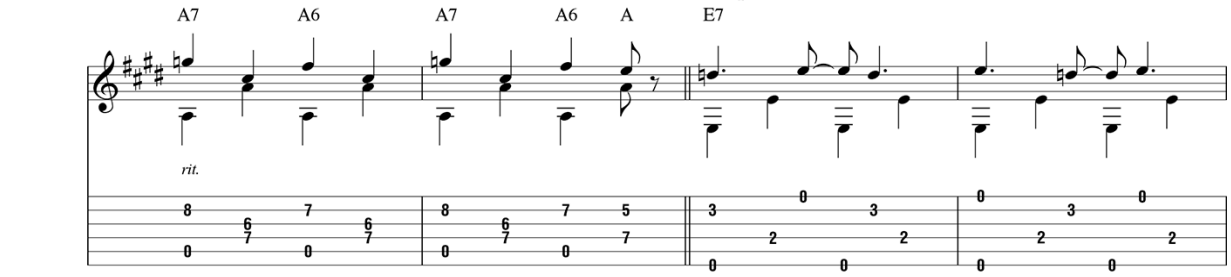
D.S. al Coda 1

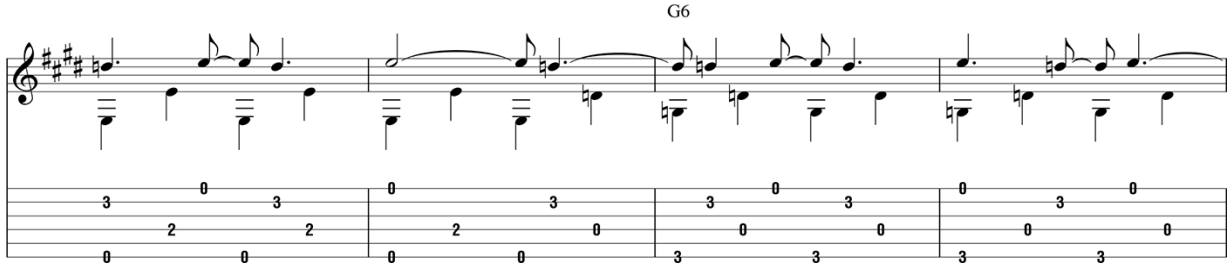


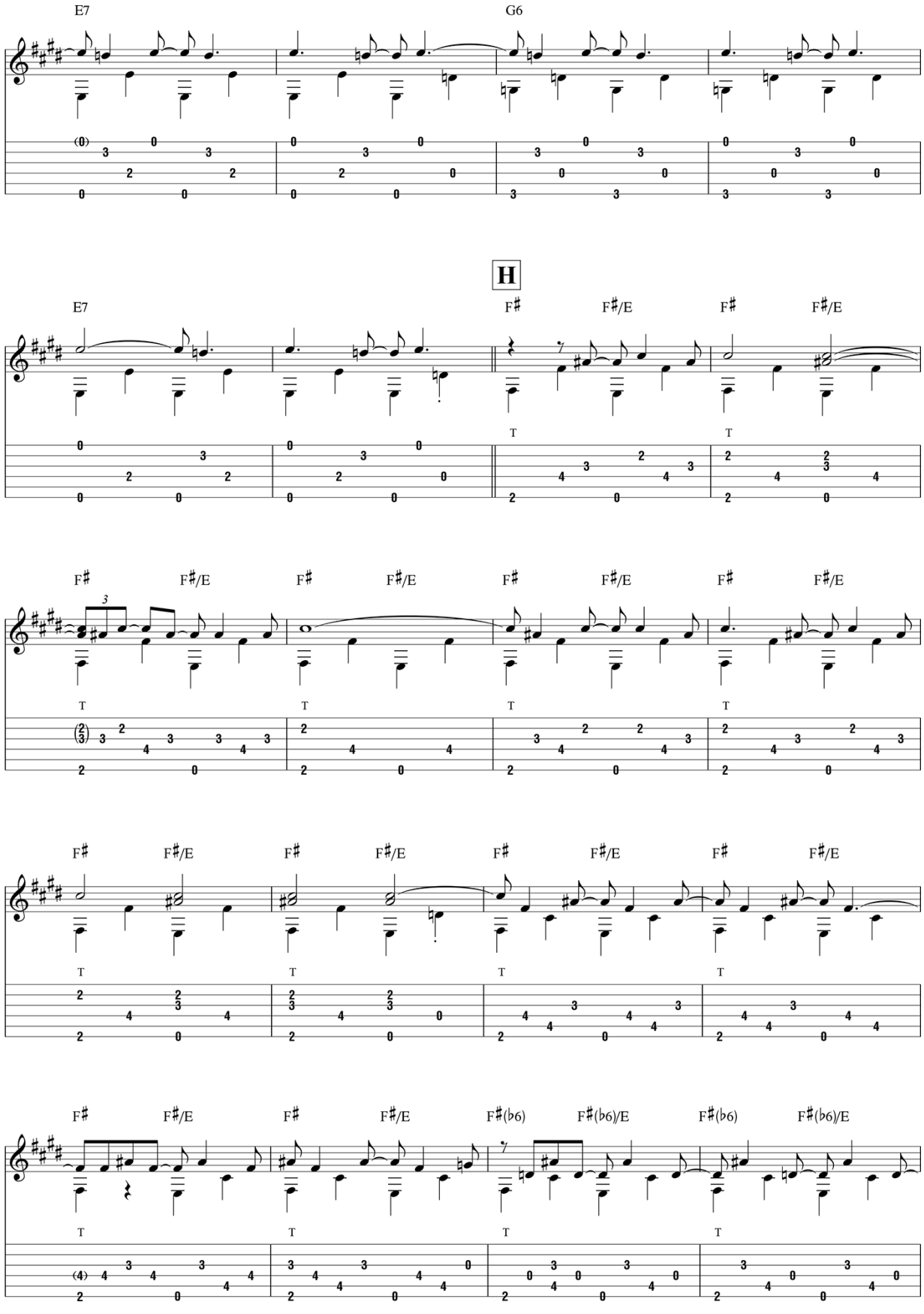
Coda 1

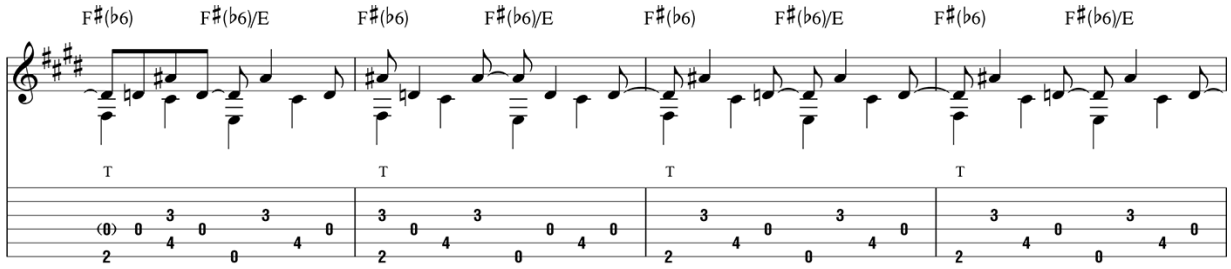
G

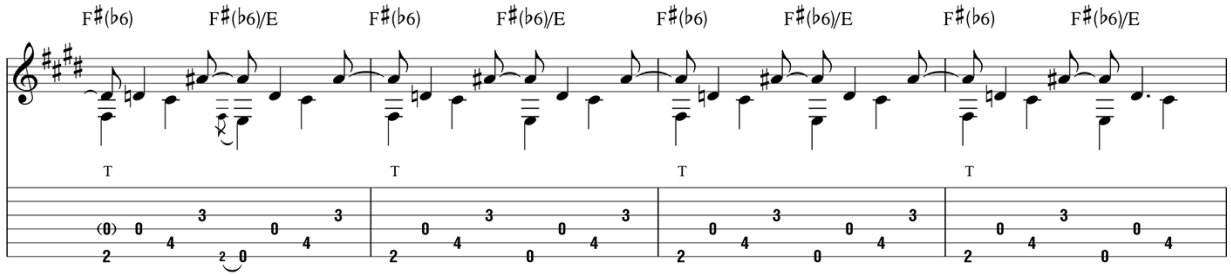
A tempo

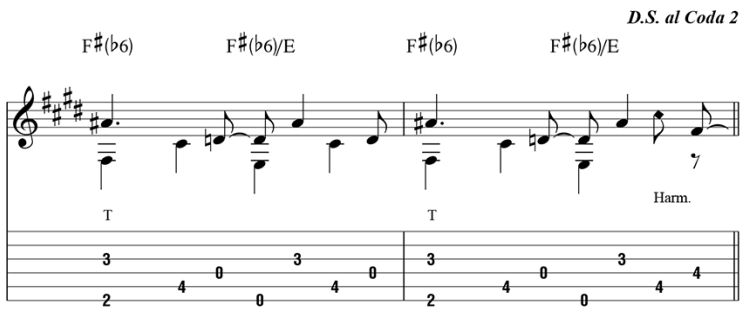


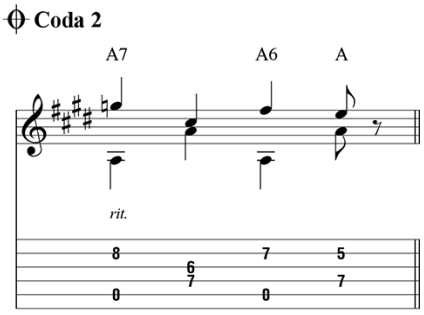



E7
G6
H
E7
F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E
F♯(♭6)
F♯(♭6)/E
F♯(♭6)
F♯(♭6)/E


F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E
T T T T

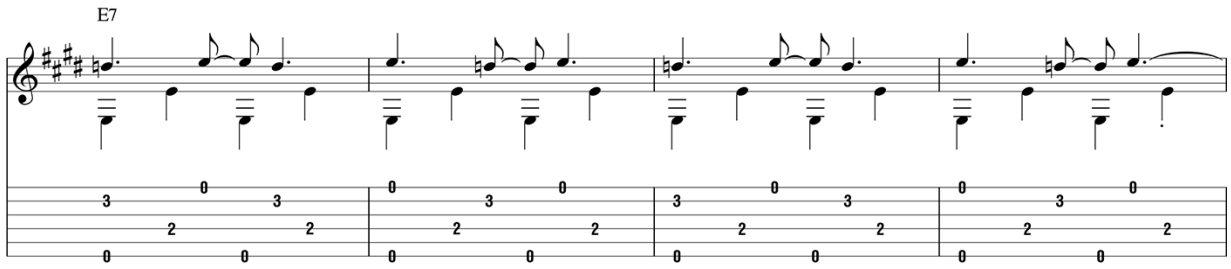

F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E
T T T T

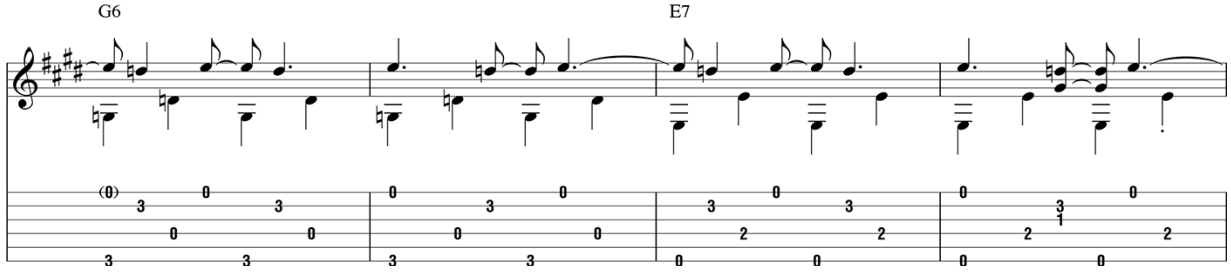

D.S. al Coda 2
F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E
T T
Harm.

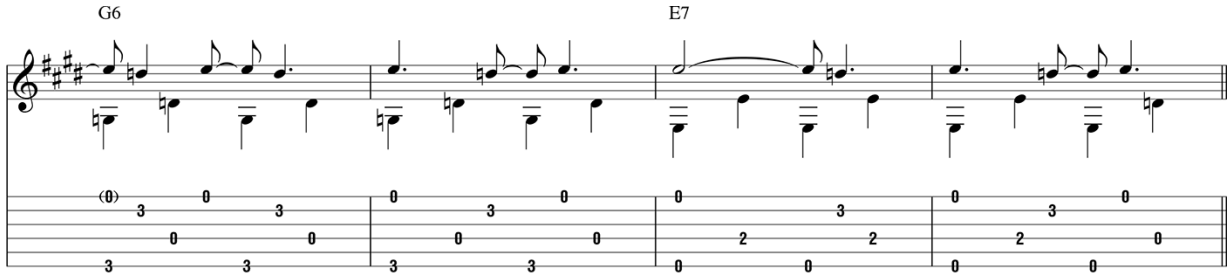

Coda 2
A7 A6 A
rit.

I

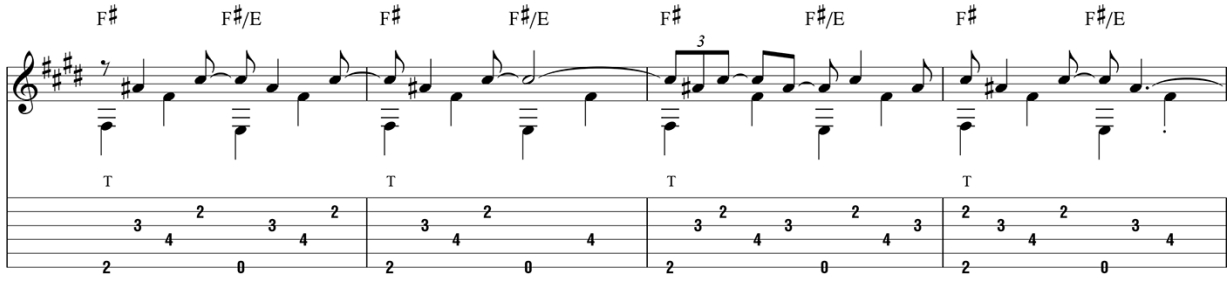
A tempo

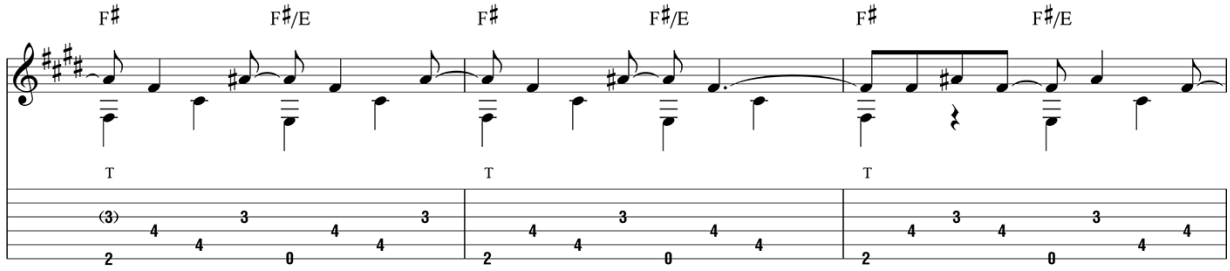

E7

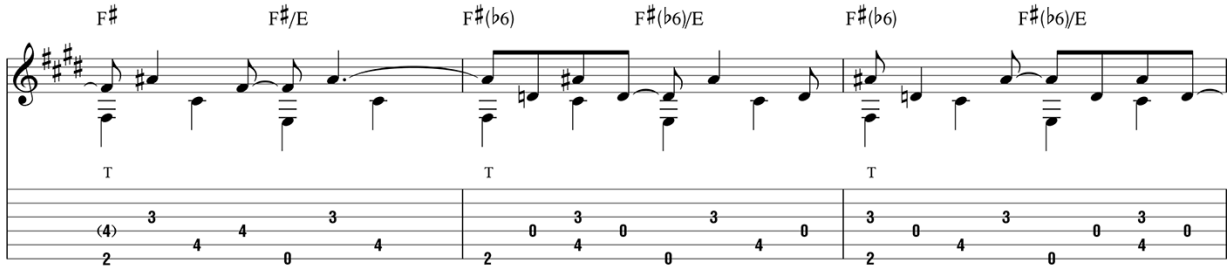

G6 E7

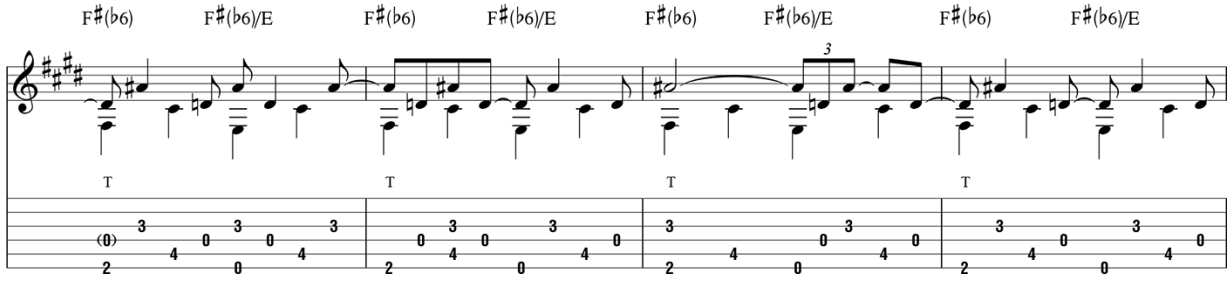

G6
E7

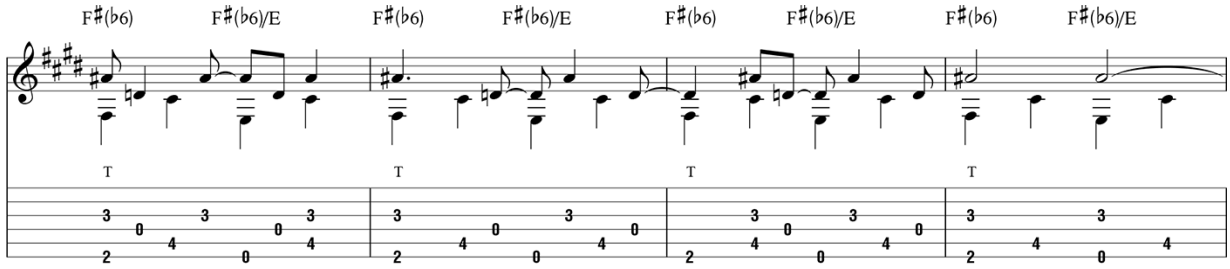
J

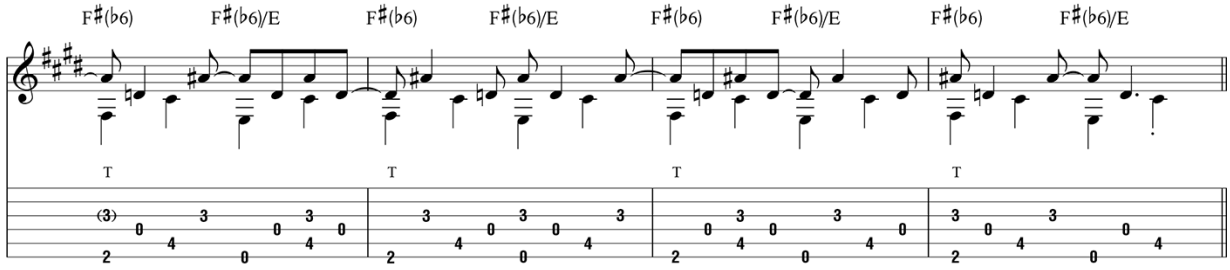

F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E


F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E
F♯
F♯/E

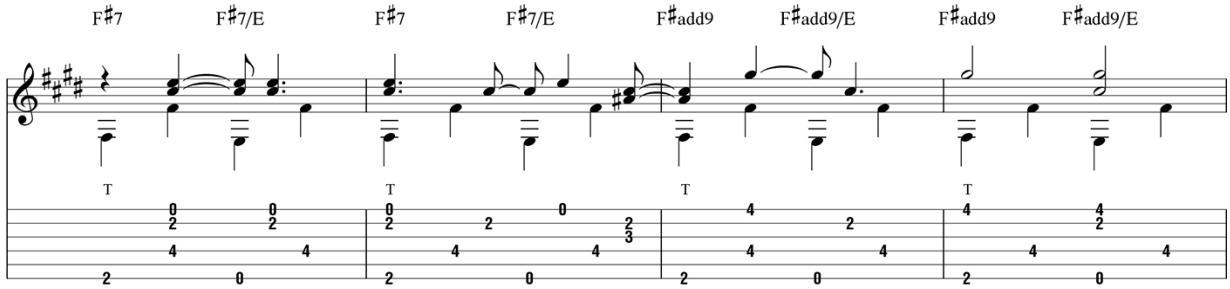

F♯
F♯/E
F♯(♭6)
F♯(♭6)/E
F♯(♭6)
F♯(♭6)/E

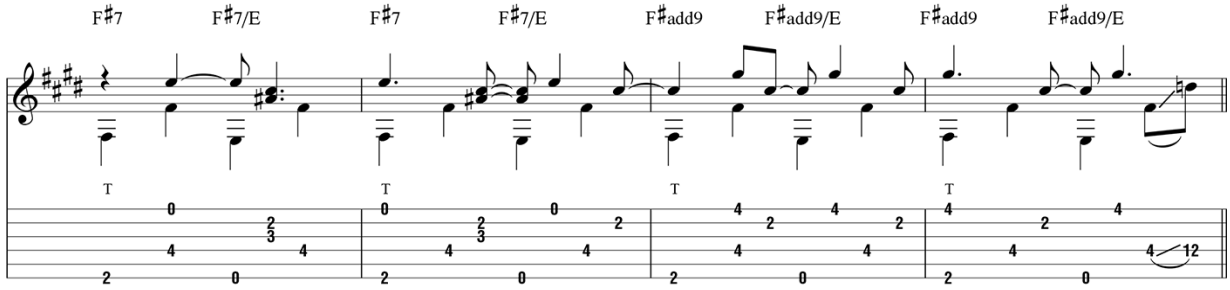

F♯(♭6)
F♯(♭6)/E
F♯(♭6)
F♯(♭6)/E
F♯(♭6)
F♯(♭6)/E
F♯(♭6)
F♯(♭6)/E


F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E

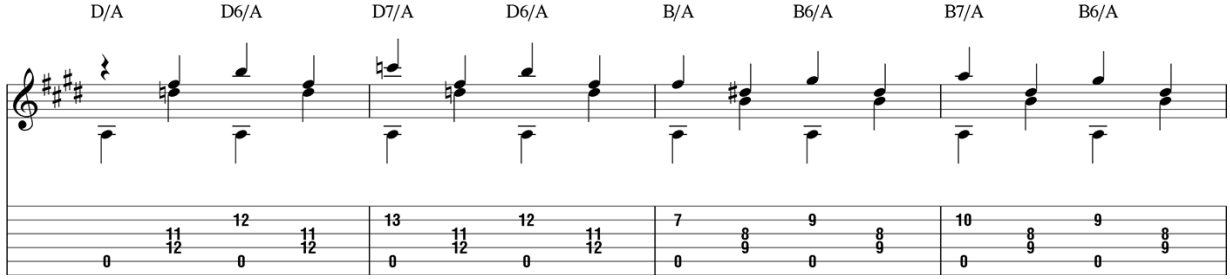

F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E F♯(♭6) F♯(♭6)/E

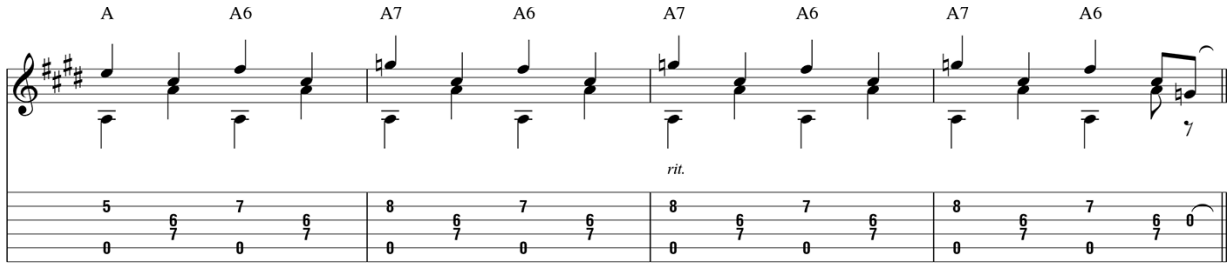
K


F♯7 F♯7/E F♯7 F♯7/E F♯add9 F♯add9/E F♯add9 F♯add9/E


F♯7 F♯7/E F♯7 F♯7/E F♯add9 F♯add9/E F♯add9 F♯add9/E

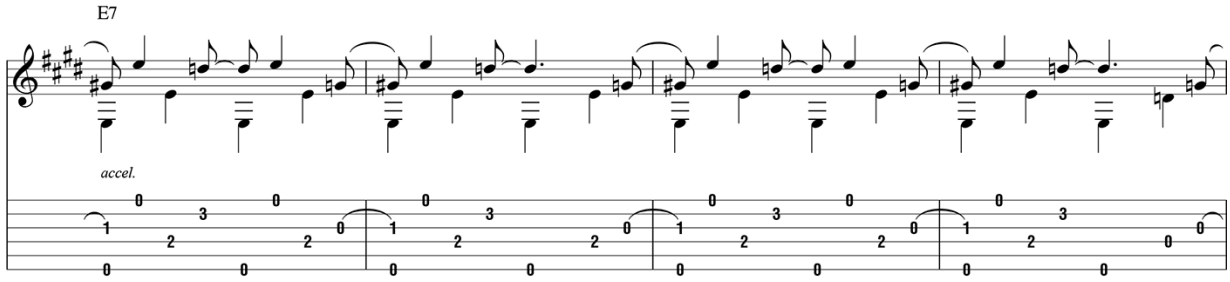
L

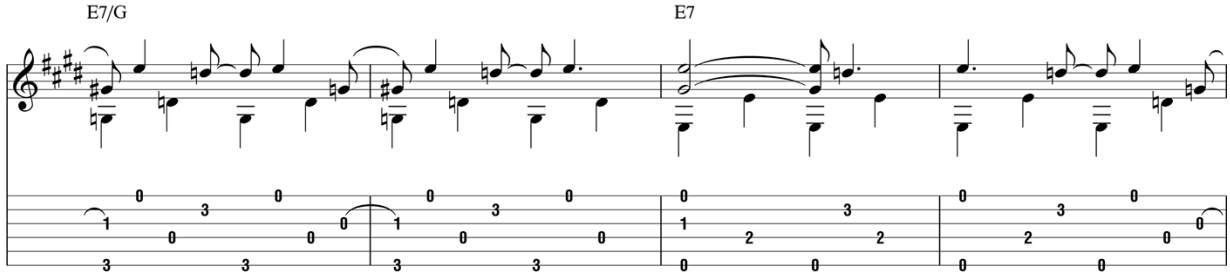

D/A D6/A D7/A D6/A B/A B6/A B7/A B6/A

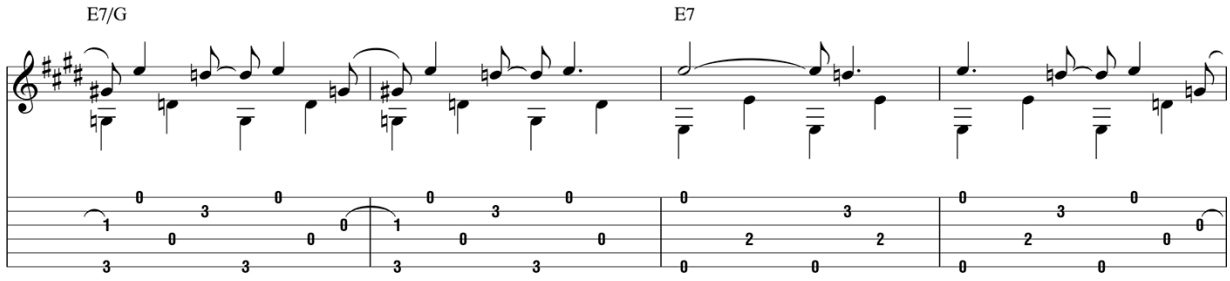


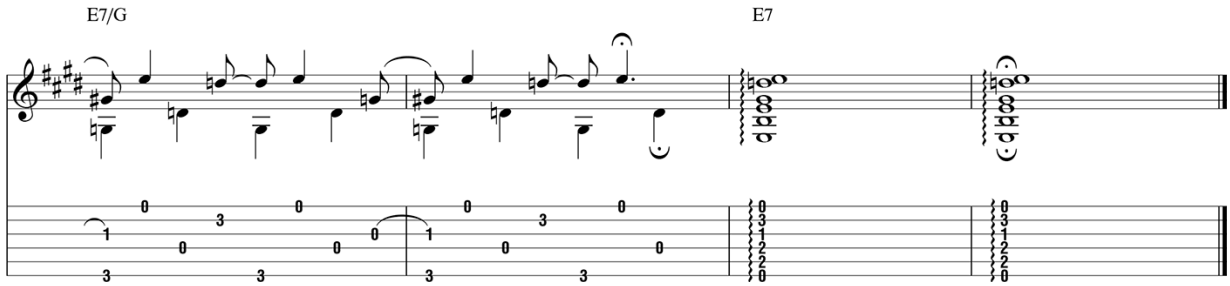
M

Tempo I







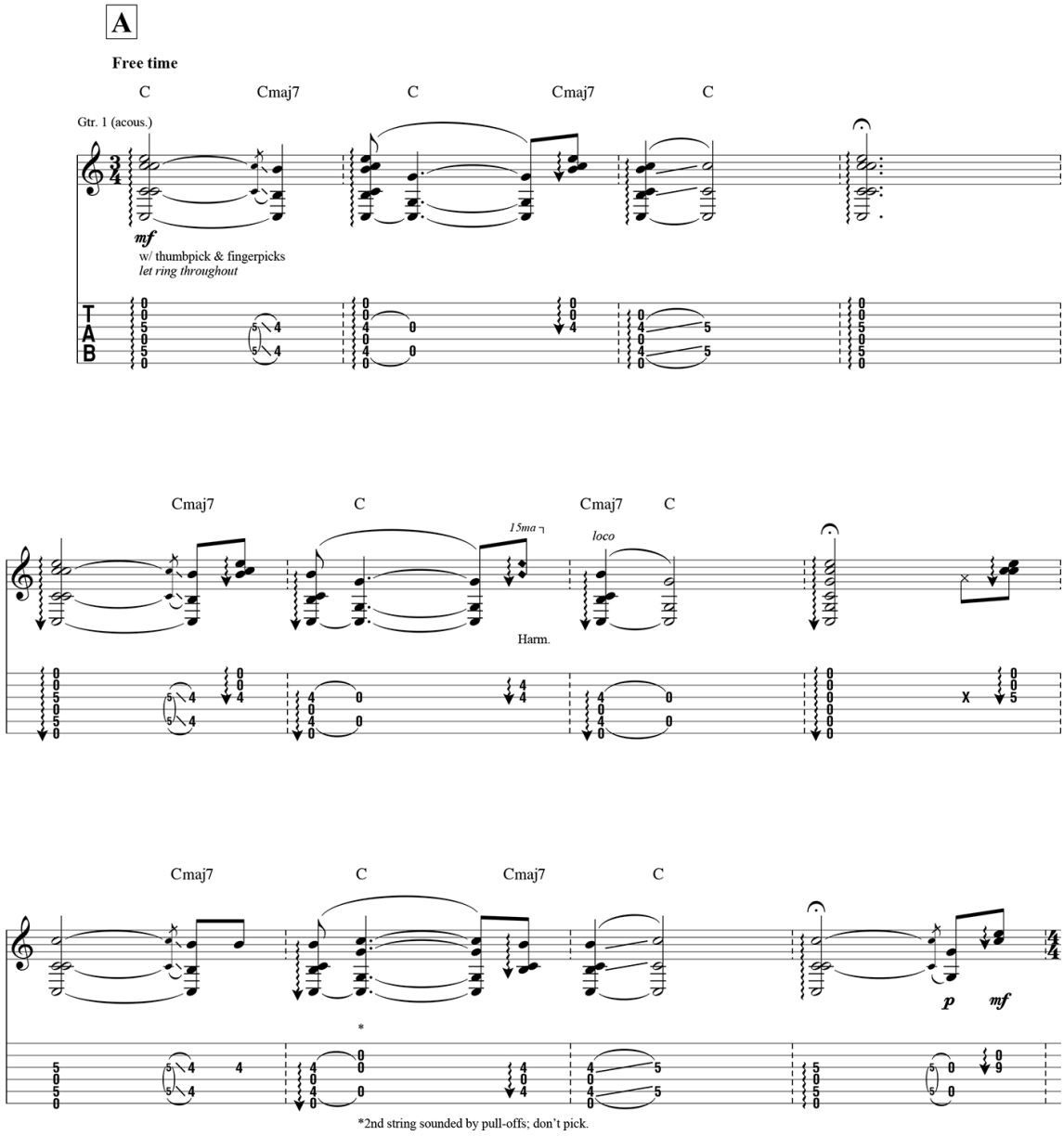


from *Death Chants, Breakdowns & Military Waltzes*

Sunflower River Blues

Written by John Fahey

Open C tuning:
(low to high) C-G-C-G-C-E



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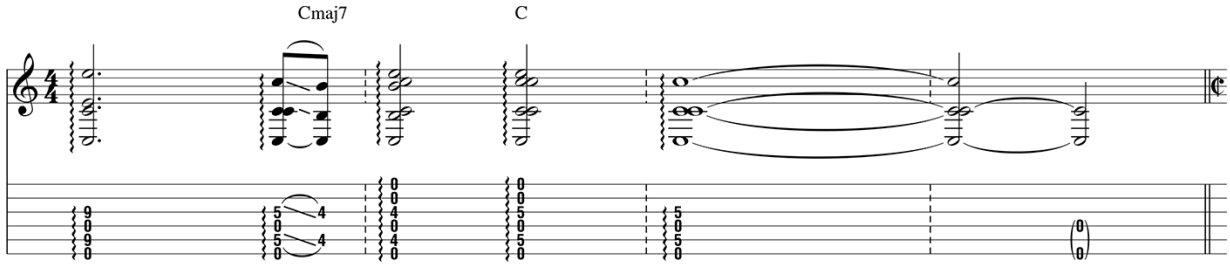
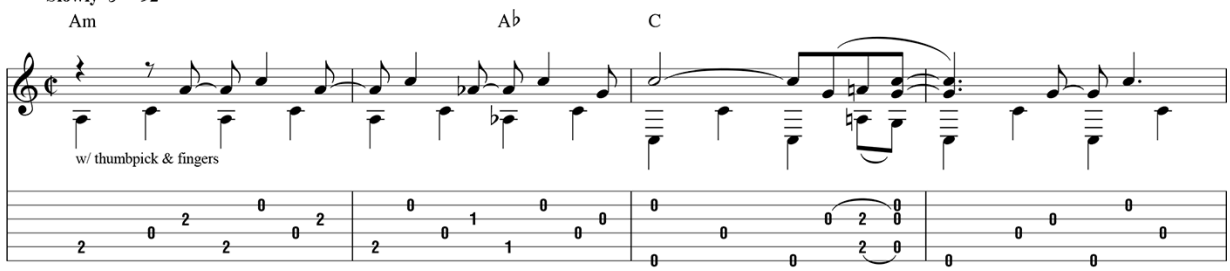
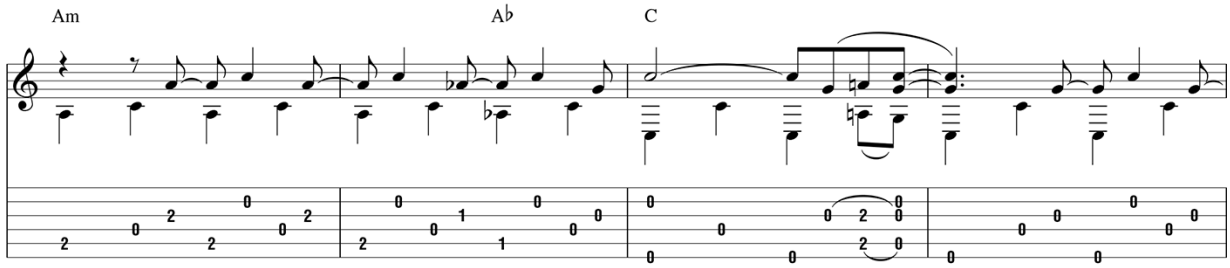
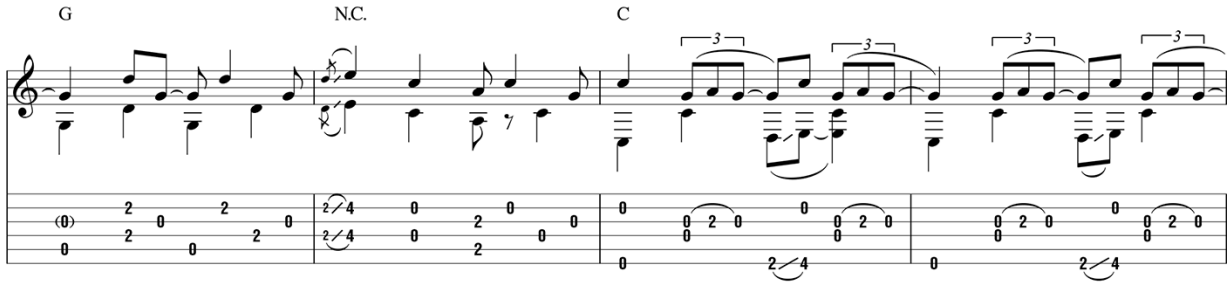


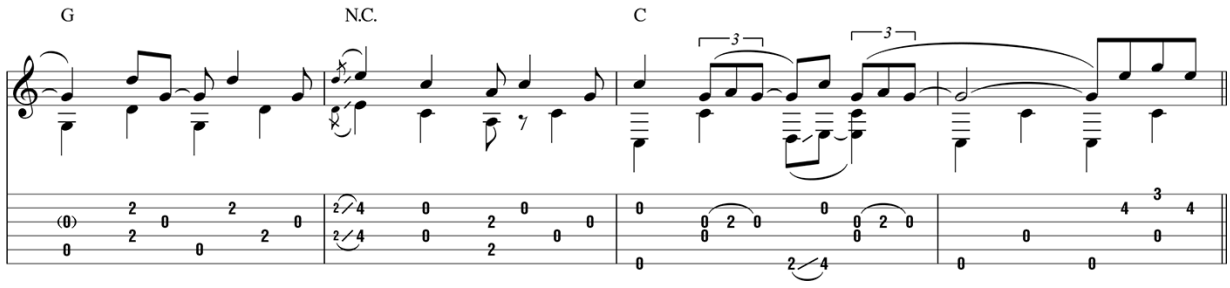
B

Slowly ♩ = 92









C

C

2nd time, Gtr. 1: w/ Fill 1

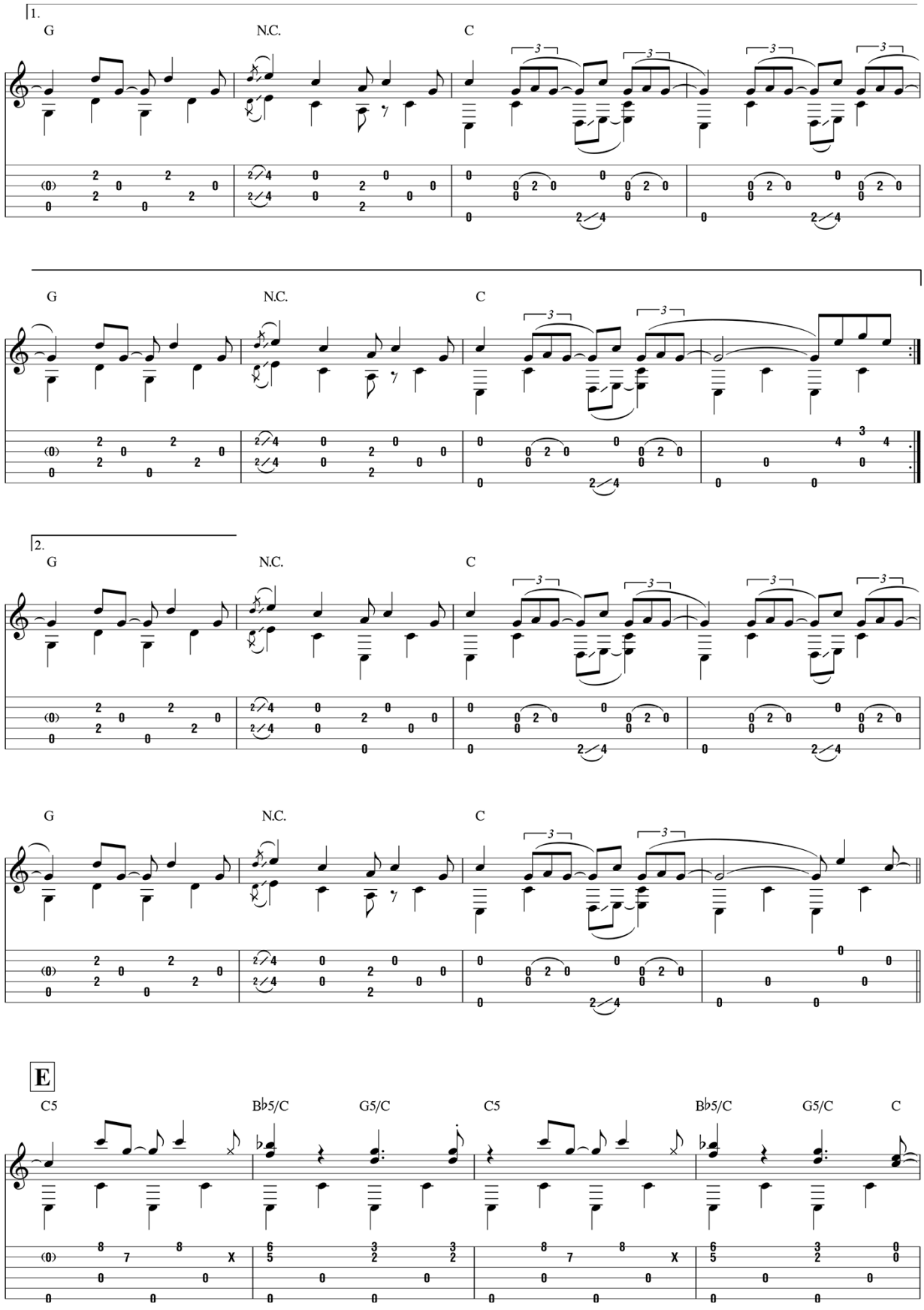
D

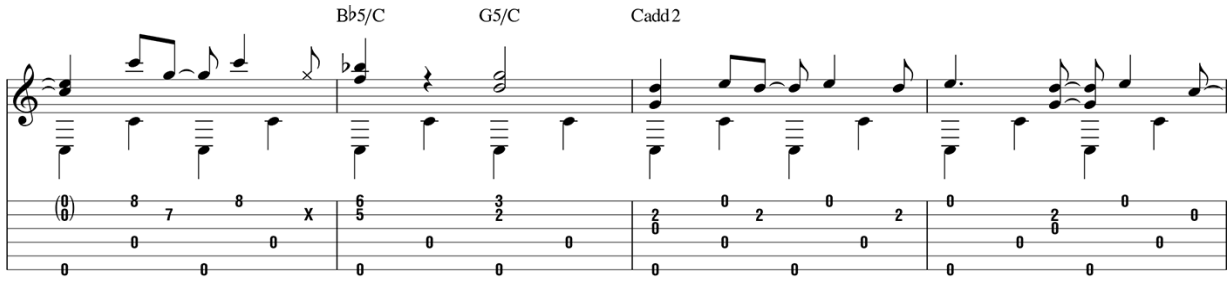
Am A♭ C

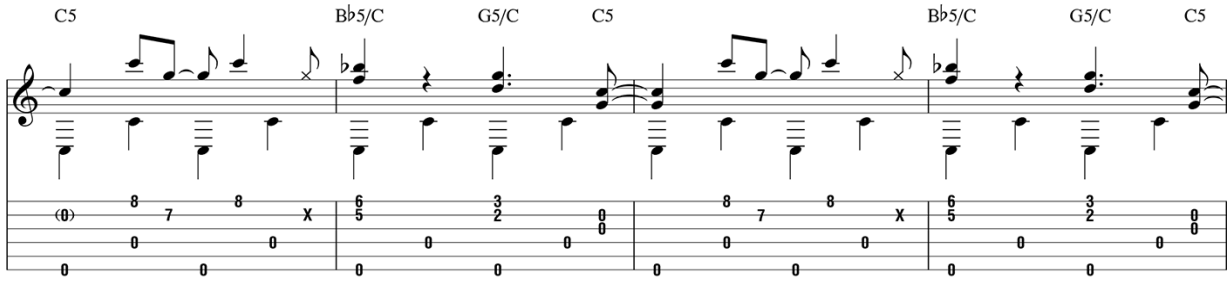
To Coda

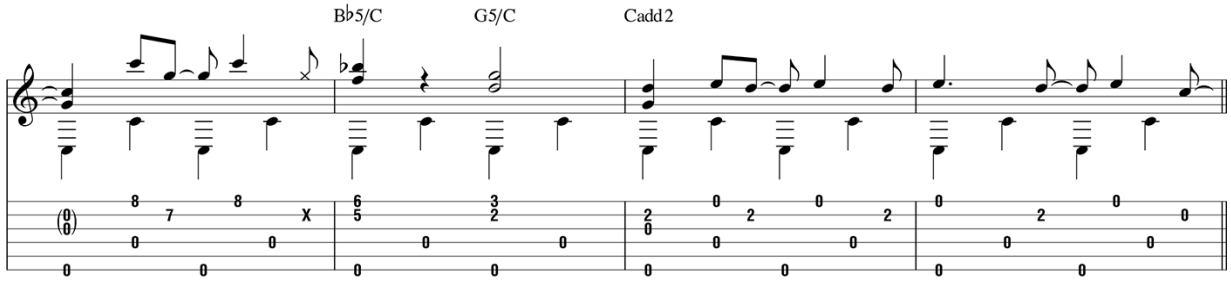
Am A♭ C

Fill 1
Gtr. 1

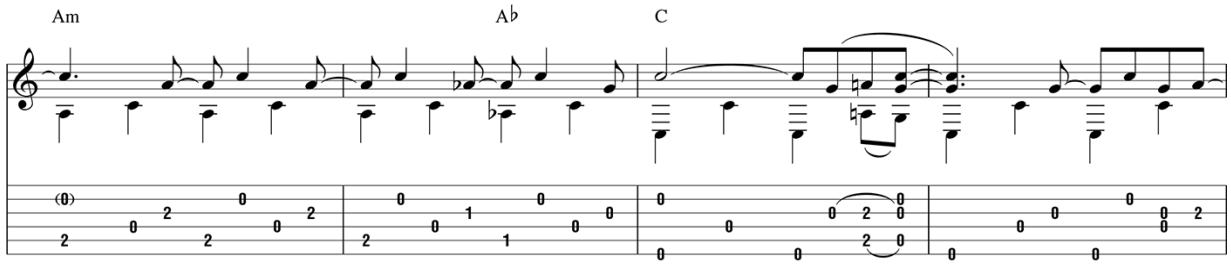

1.
G
N.C.
C
G
N.C.
C
2.
G
N.C.
C
G
N.C.
C
E
C5
B♭5/C
G5/C
C5
B♭5/C
G5/C
C

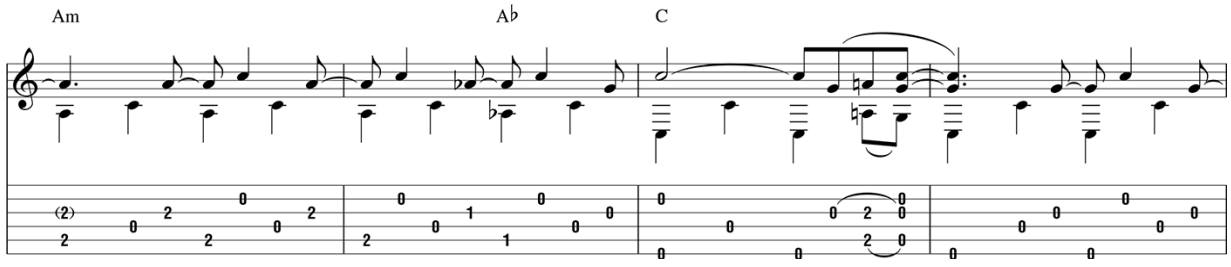


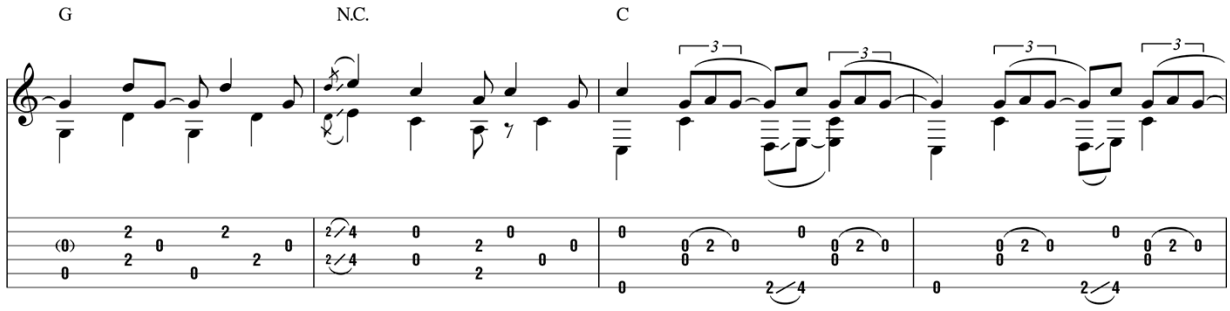




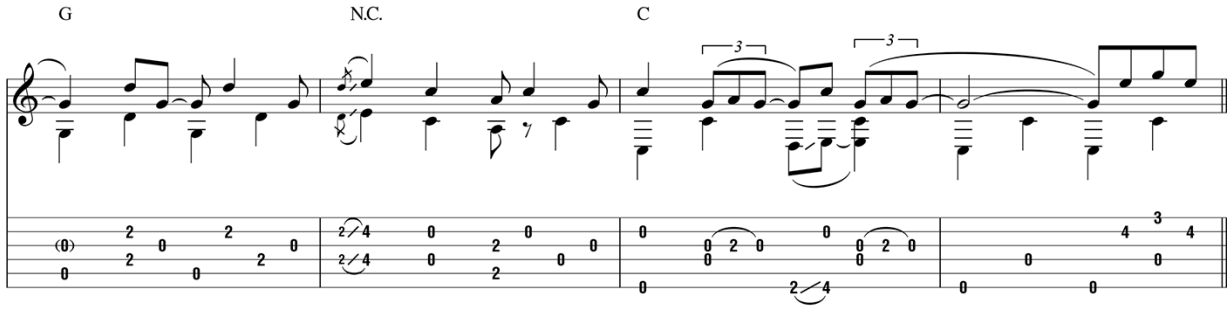
F



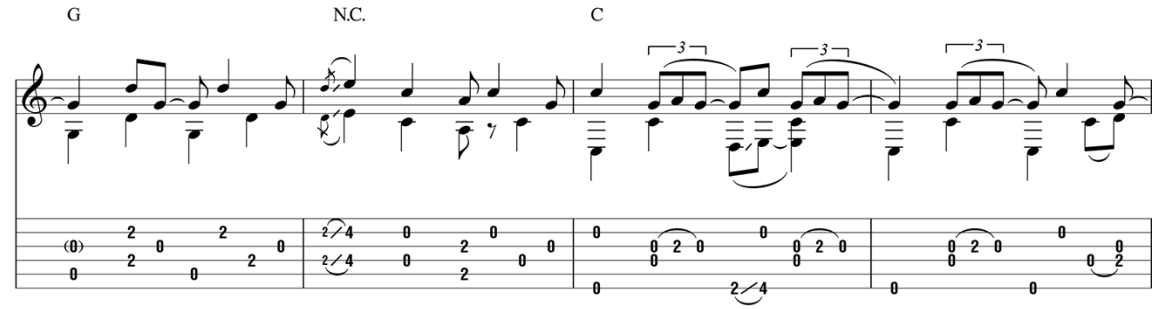


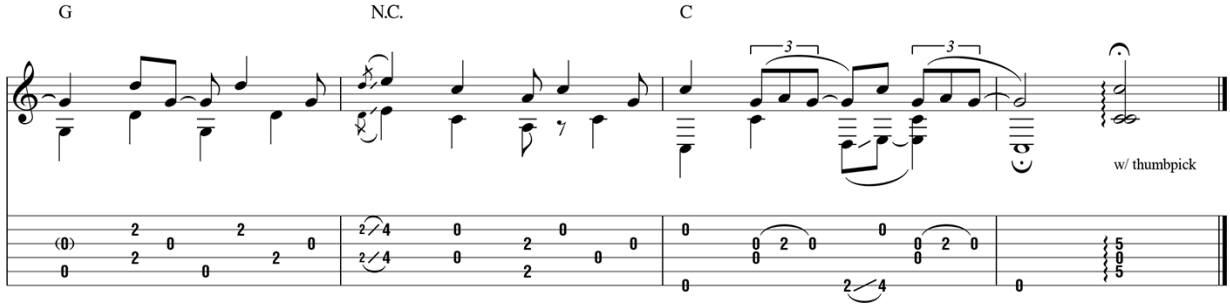


D.S. al Coda



Coda

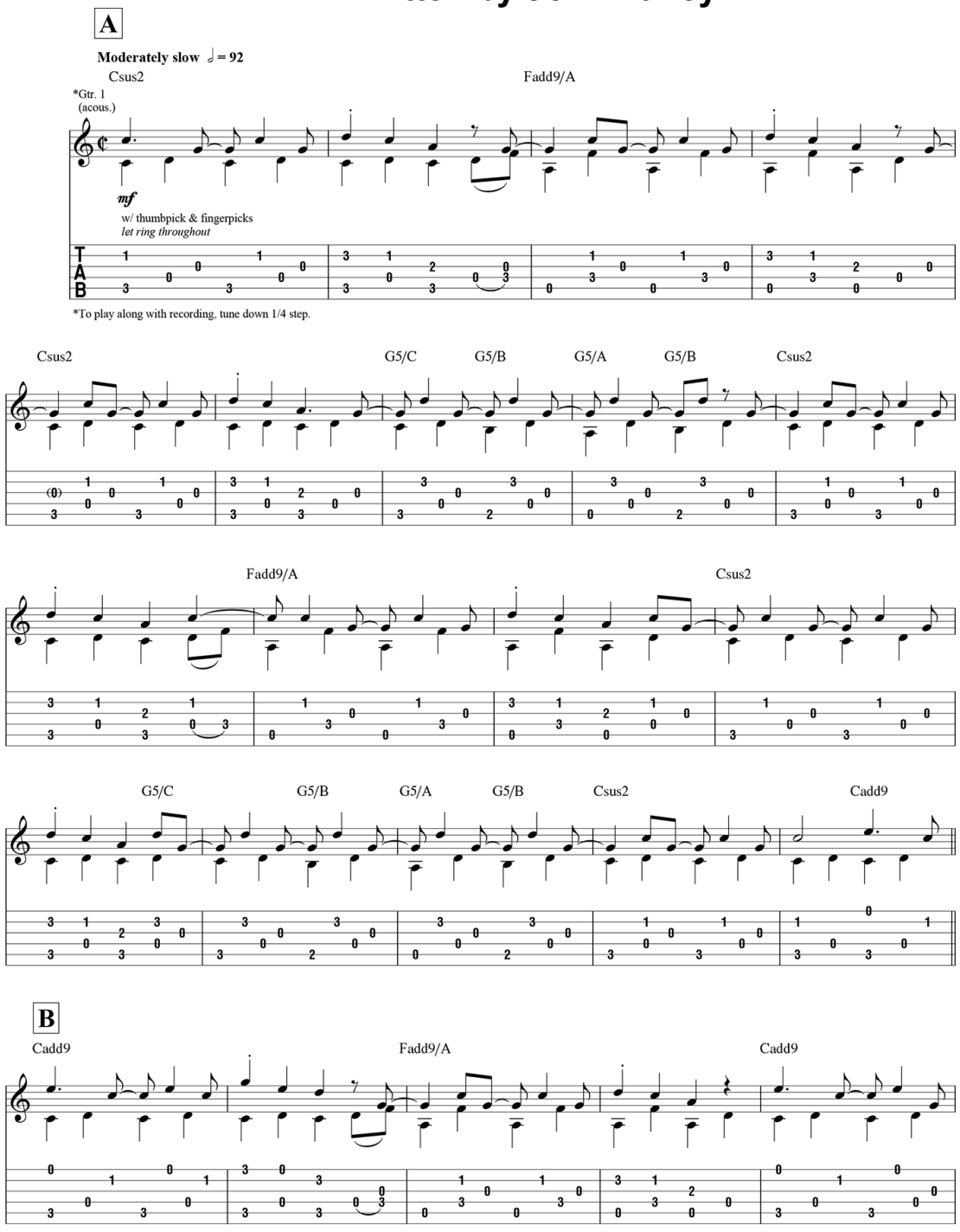




from *The Transfiguration of Blind Joe Death*

Tell Her To Come Back Home

Written by John Fahey



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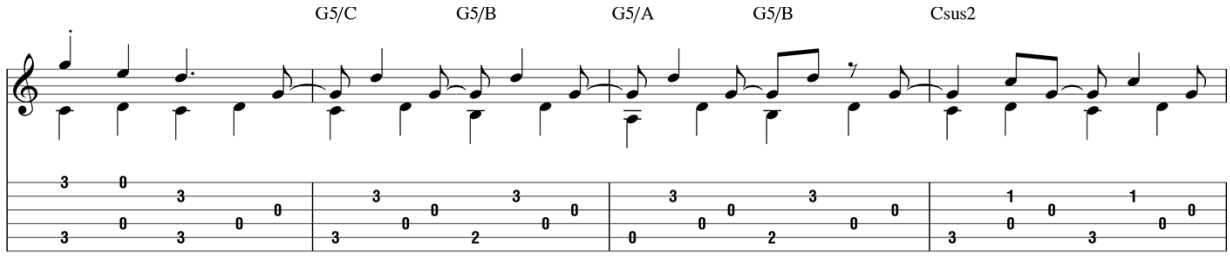
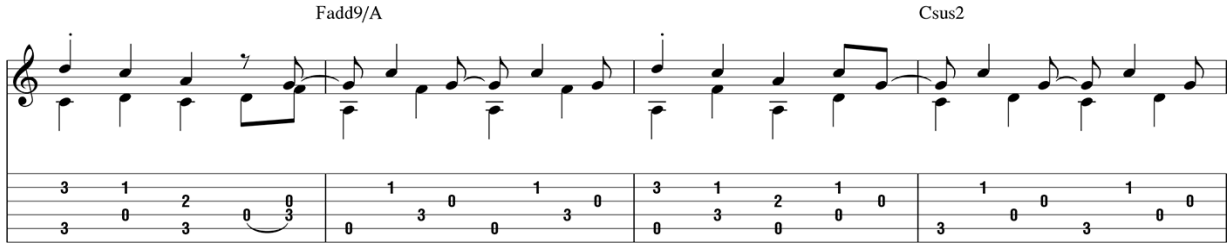
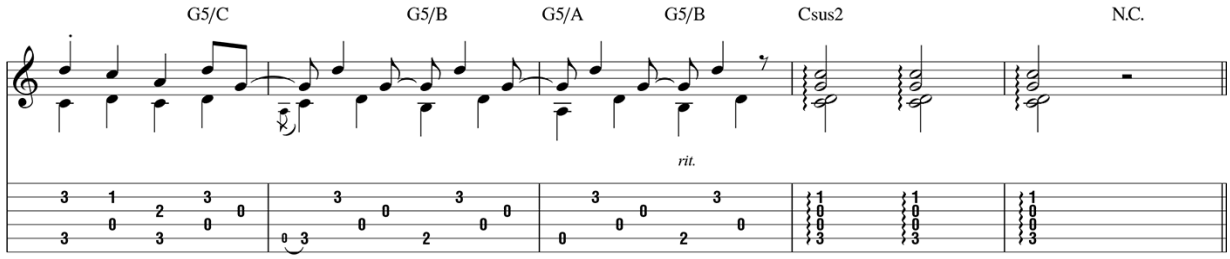
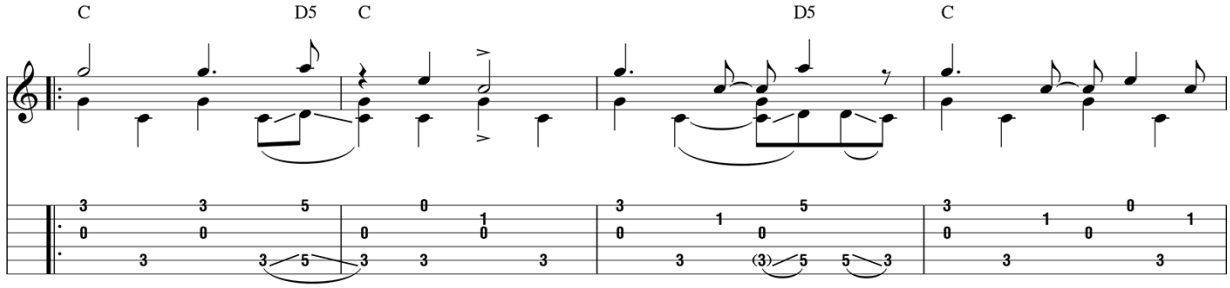

G5/C
G5/B
G5/A
G5/B
Csus2

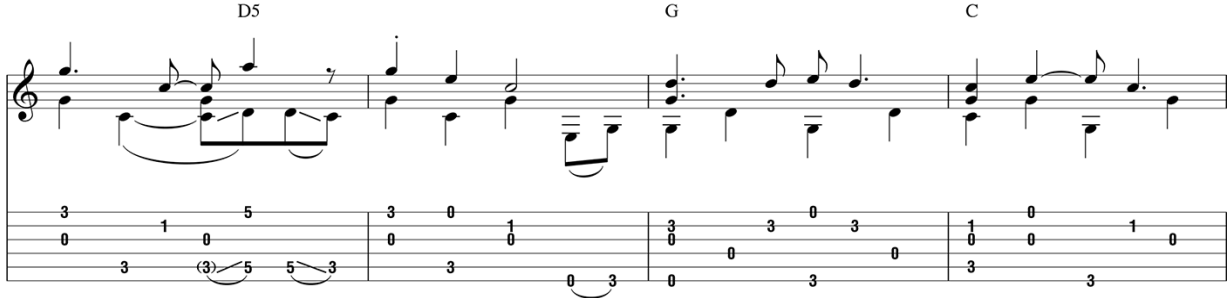

Fadd9/A
Csus2

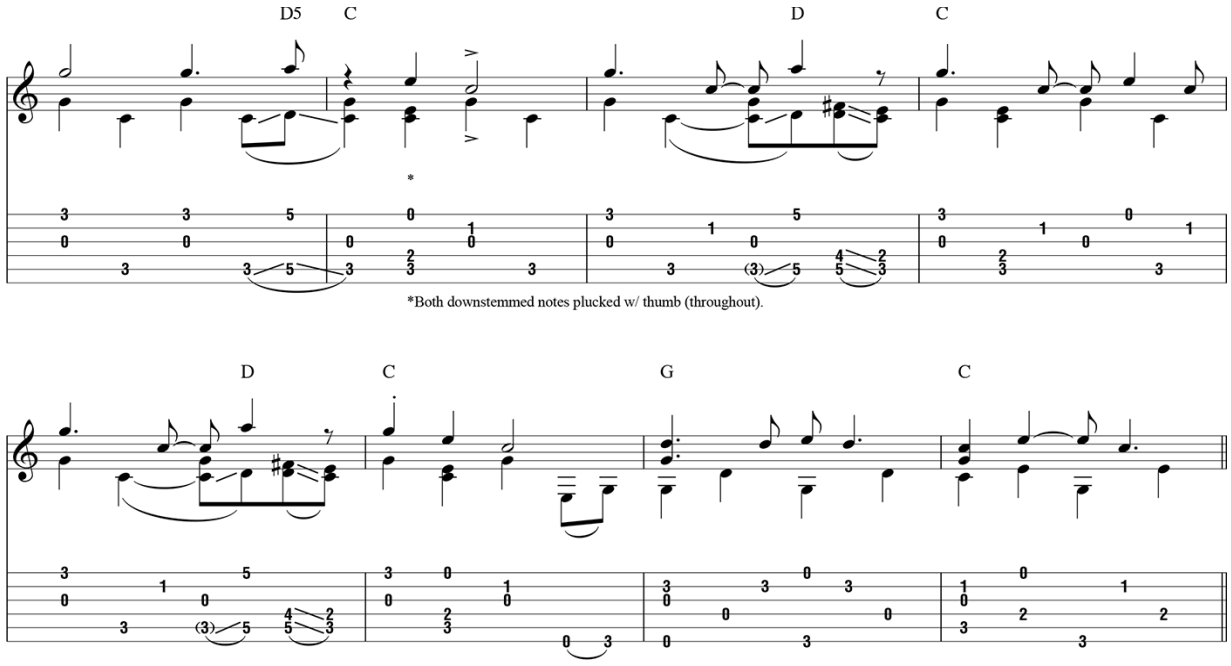

G5/C
G5/B
G5/A
G5/B
Csus2
N.C.
rit.

C

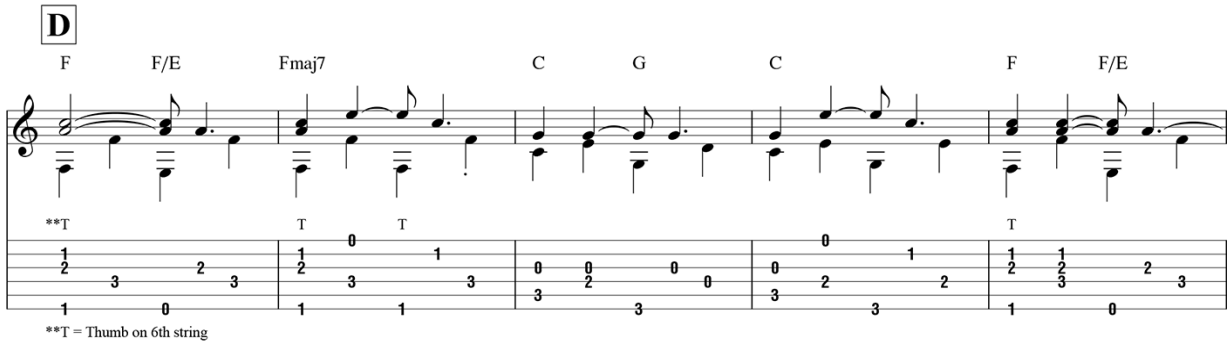
Tempo I

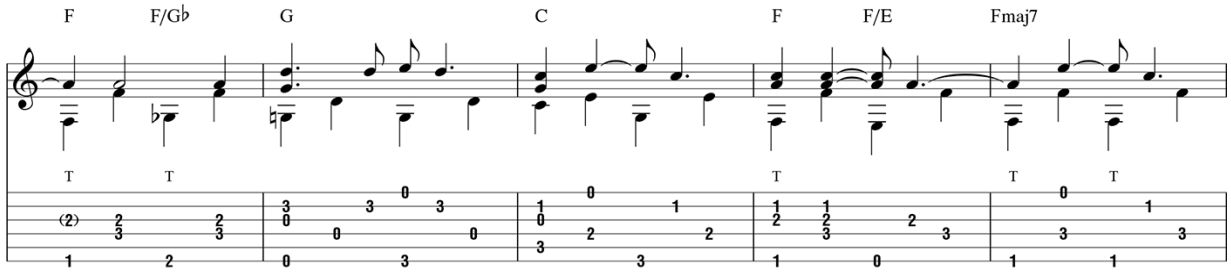

C
D5
C
D5
C

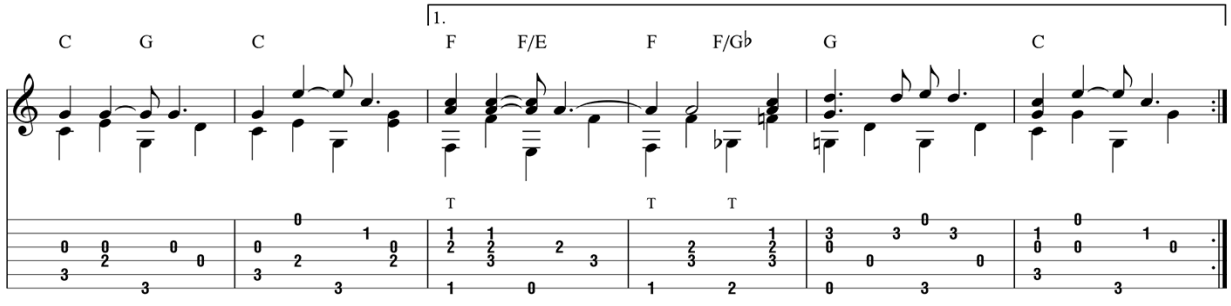

D5
G
C

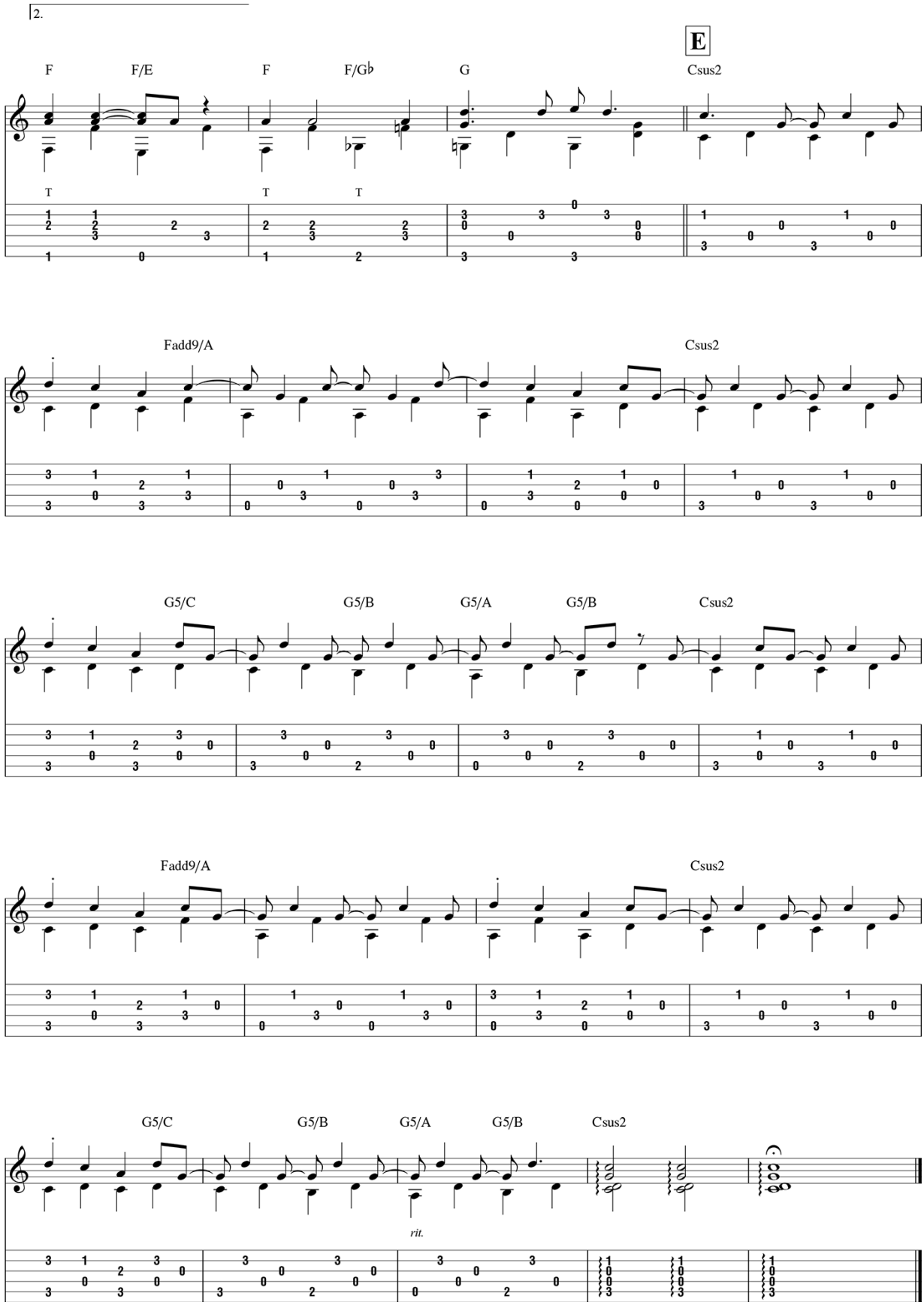

D5
C
D
C
*
*Both downstemmed notes plucked w/ thumb (throughout).
D
C
G
C

D


F
F/E
Fmaj7
C
G
C
F
F/E
**T
T
T
T
**T = Thumb on 6th string


F
F/G♭
G
C
F
F/E
Fmaj7
T
T
T
T
T

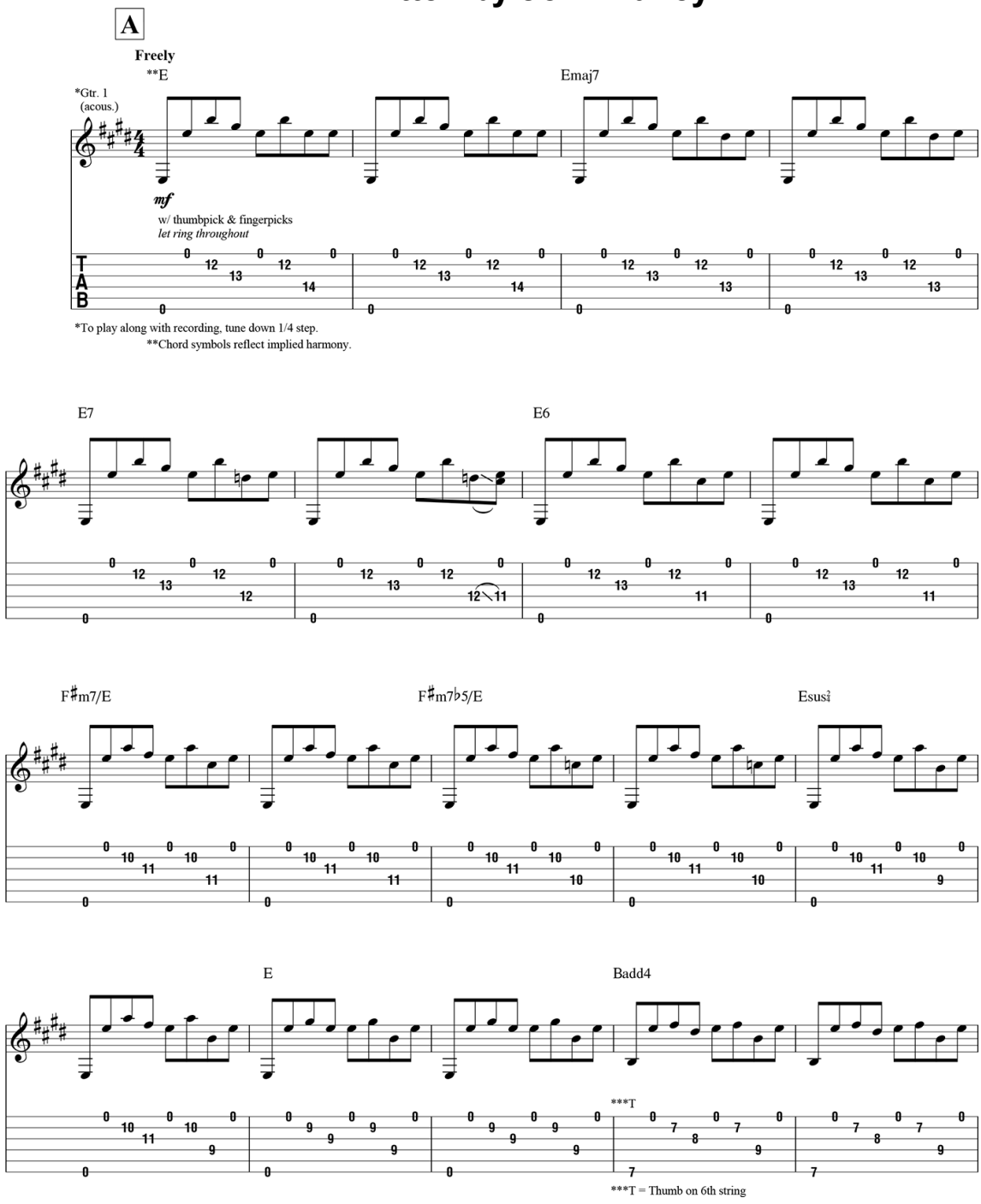

C
G
C
1.
F
F/E
F
F/G♭
G
C
T
T
T


2.
E
F
F/E
F
F/G♭
G
Csus2
Fadd9/A
Csus2
G5/C
G5/B
G5/A
G5/B
Csus2
Fadd9/A
Csus2
G5/C
G5/B
G5/A
G5/B
Csus2
rit.

from *The Yellow Princess*

The Yellow Princess

Written by John Fahey



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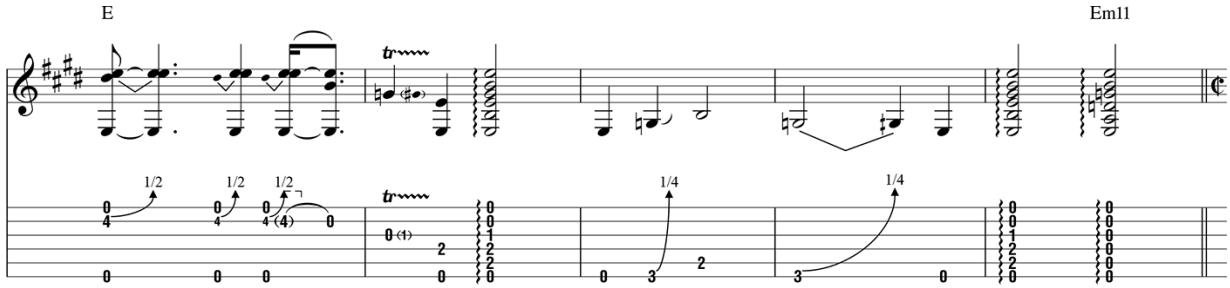
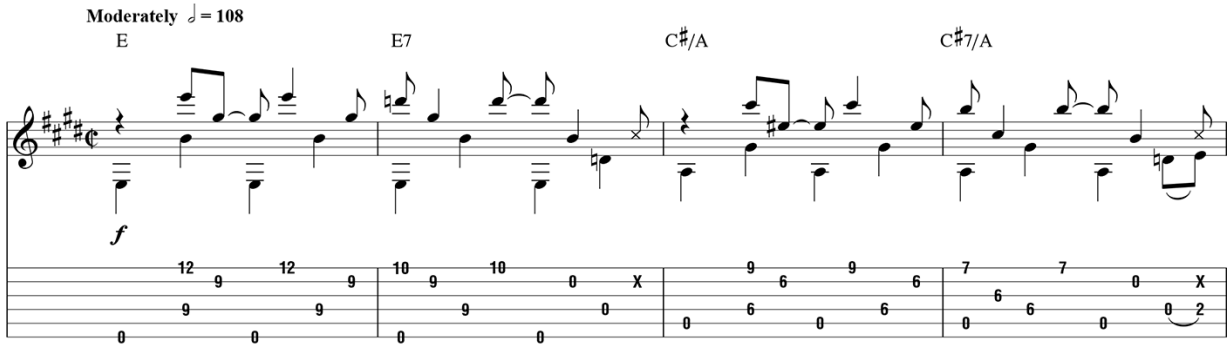
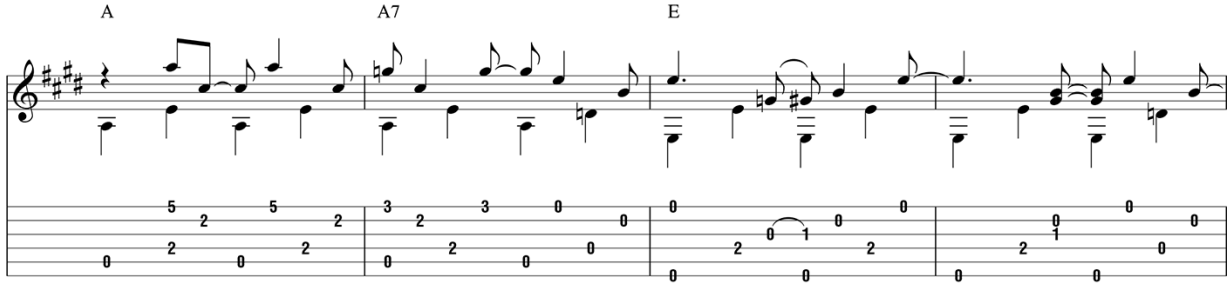
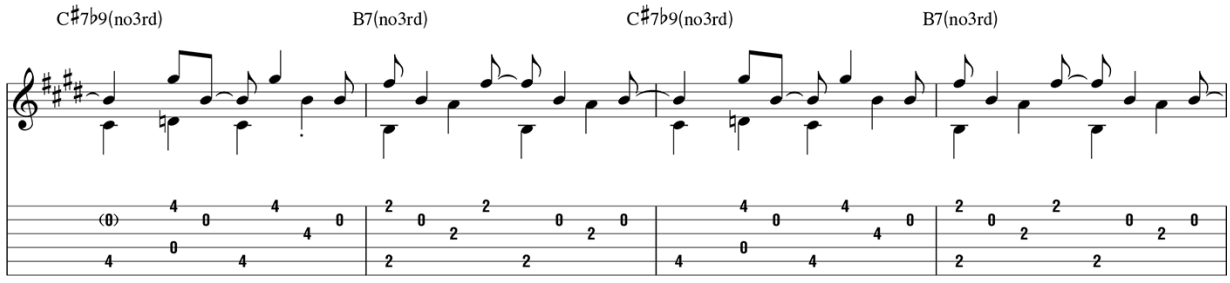


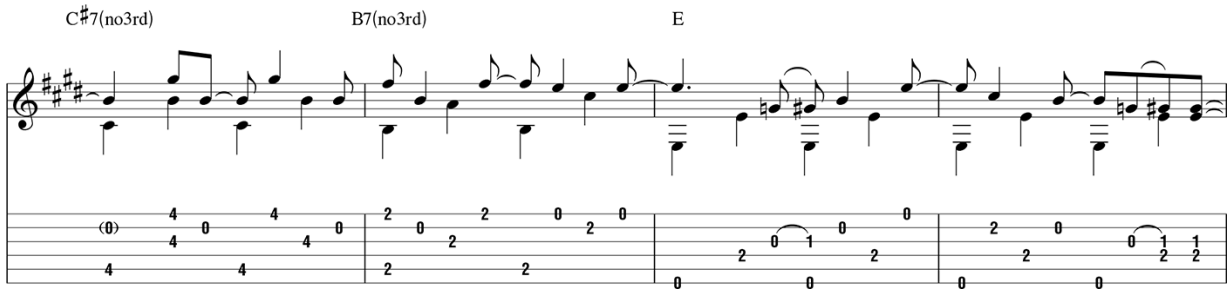
B

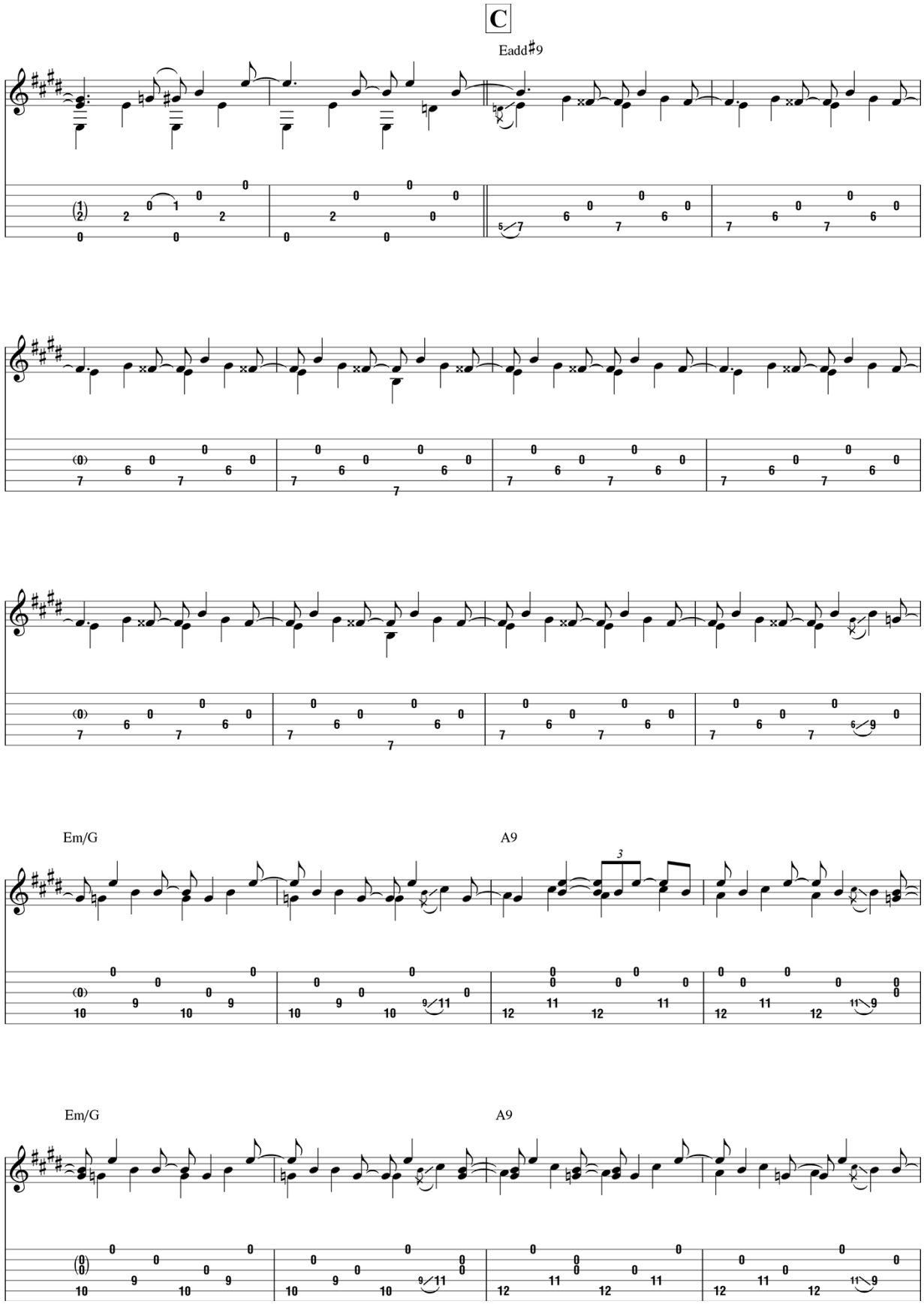
Moderately ♩ = 108

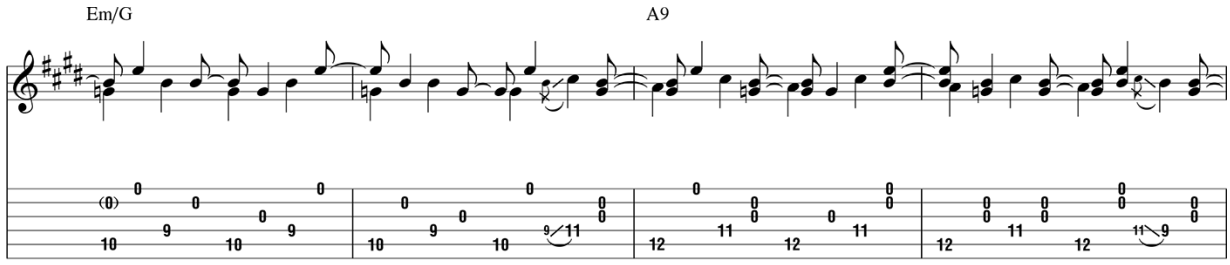


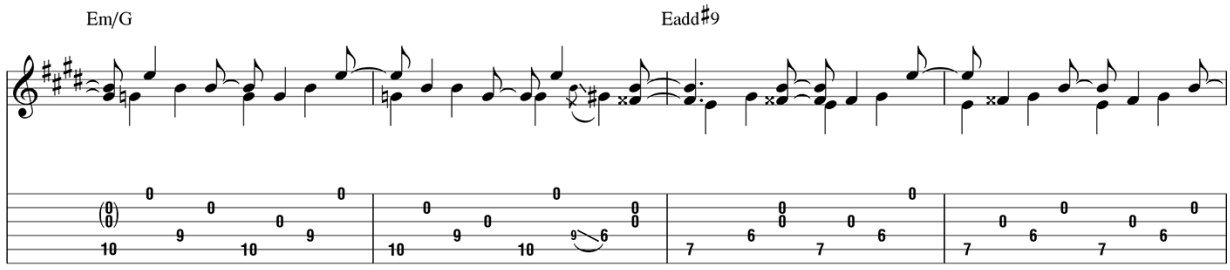


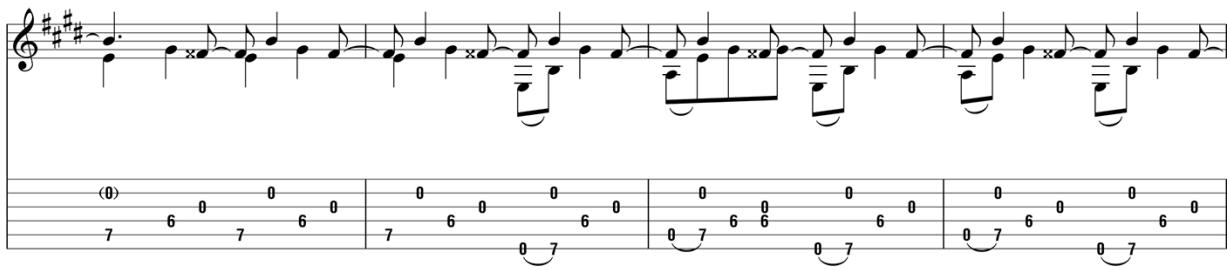


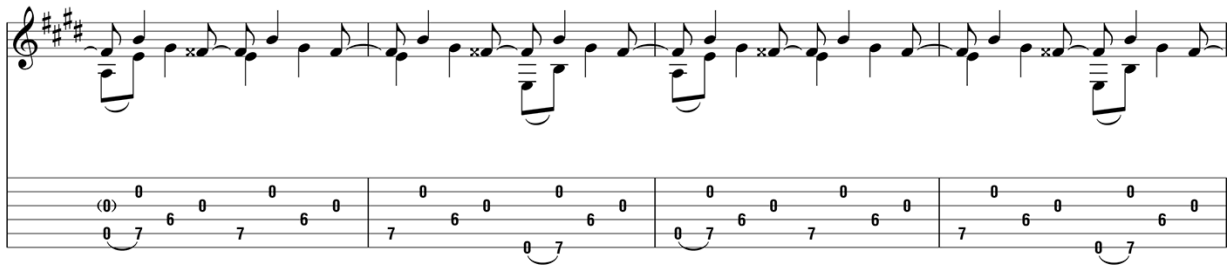


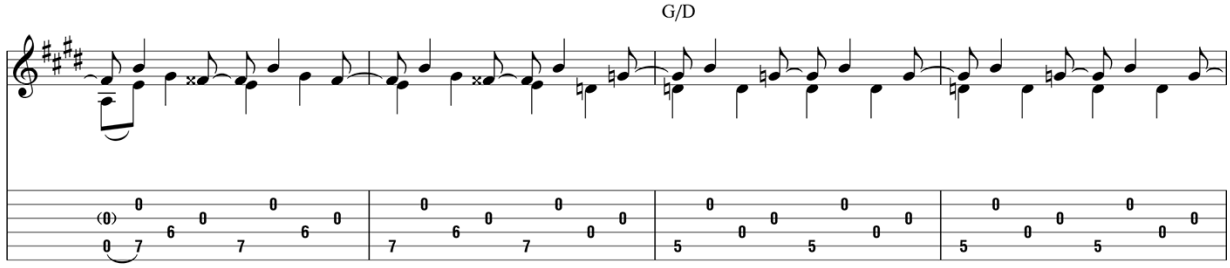

C
Eadd♯9
Em/G
A9
Em/G
A9

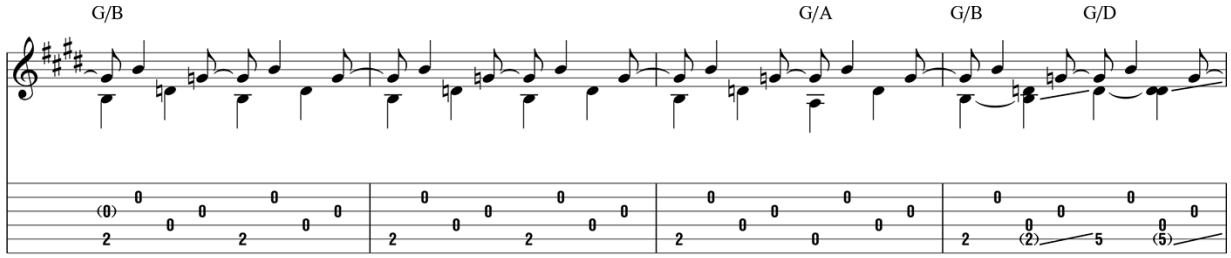

Em/G
A9

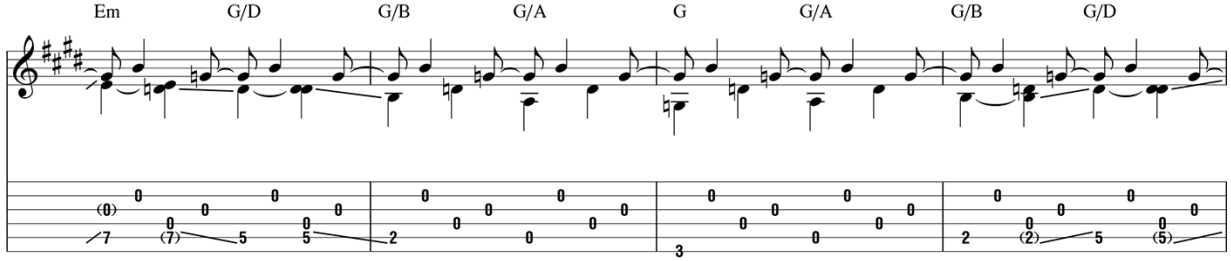

Em/G
Eadd♯9

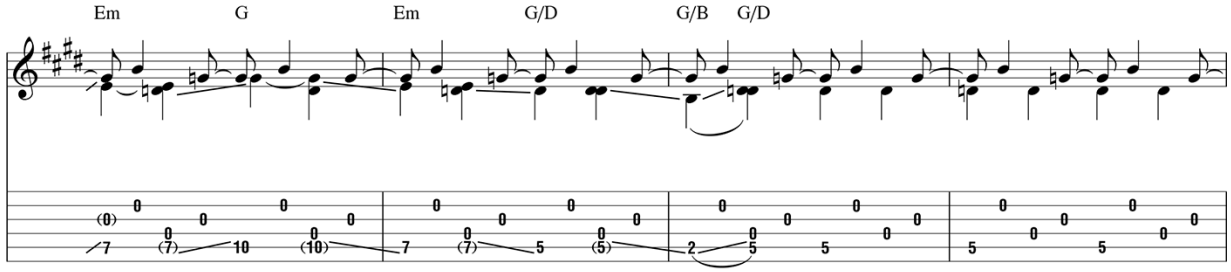


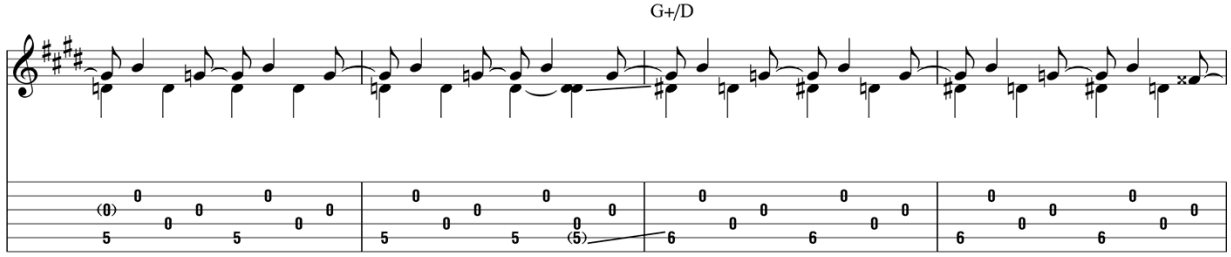


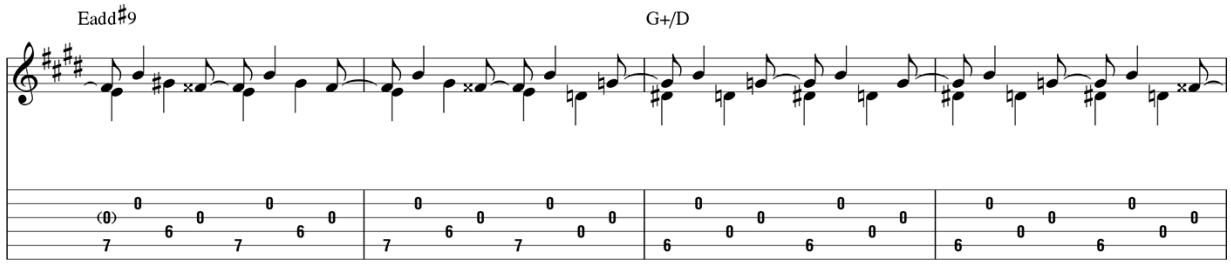

G/D

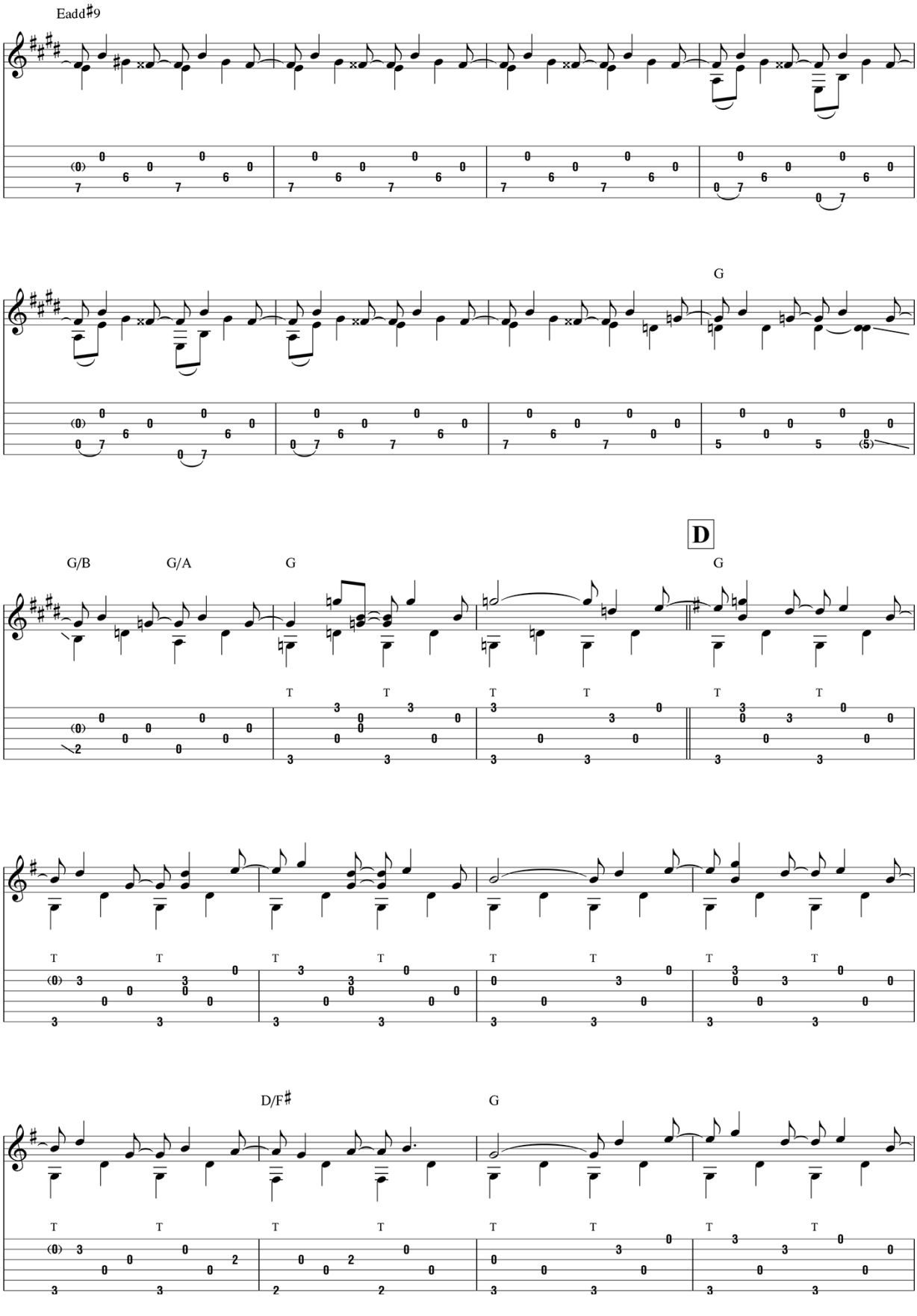

G/B
G/A
G/B
G/D

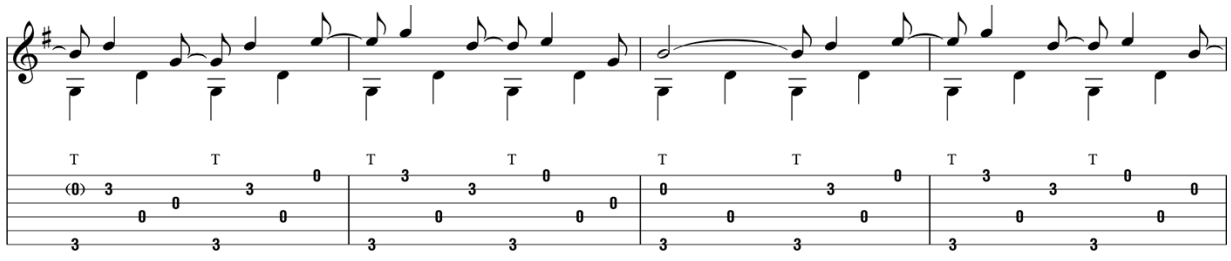

Em
G/D
G/B
G/A
G
G/A
G/B
G/D

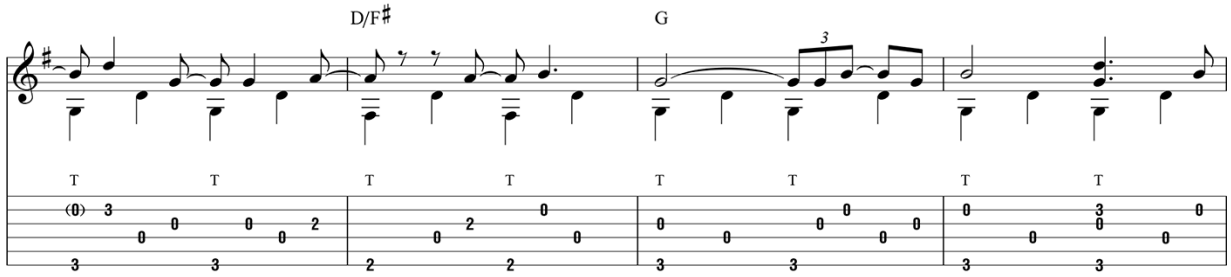

Em
G
Em
G/D
G/B
G/D

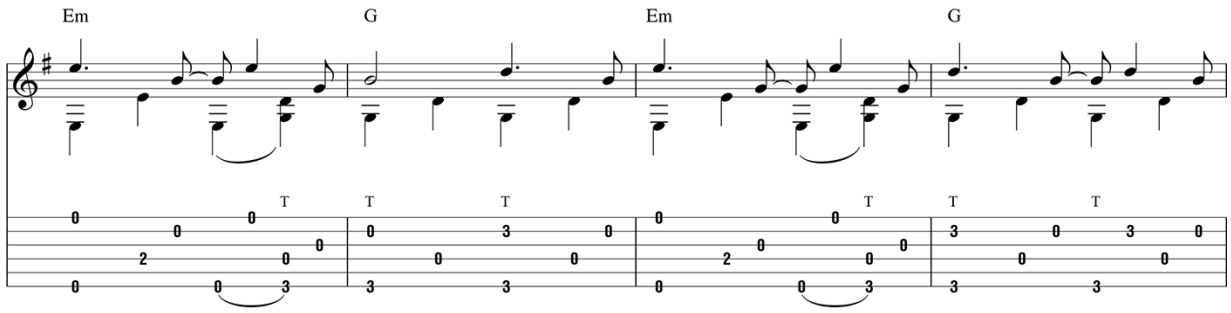

G+/D

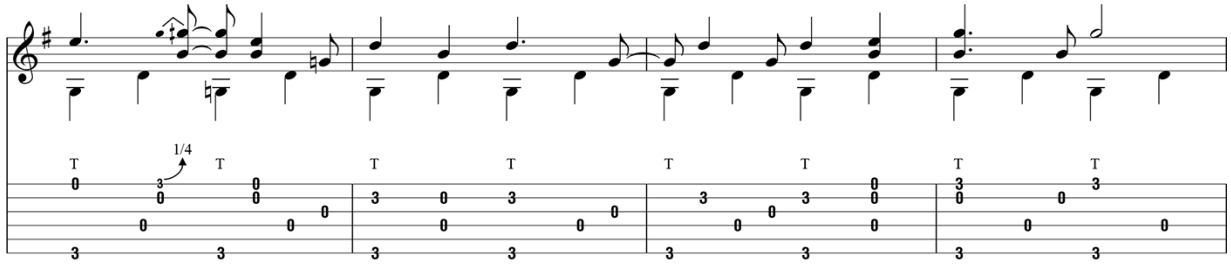

Eadd♯9
G+/D


Eadd♯9
G
G/B
G/A
G
D
G
D/F♯
G




D/F♯
G


Em
G
Em
G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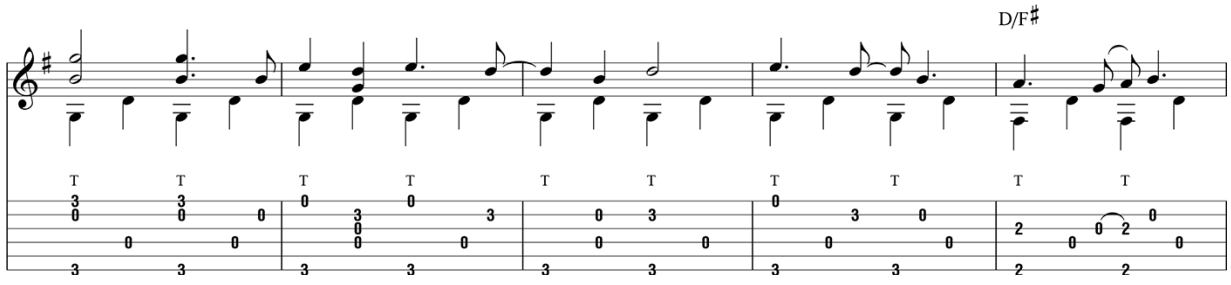
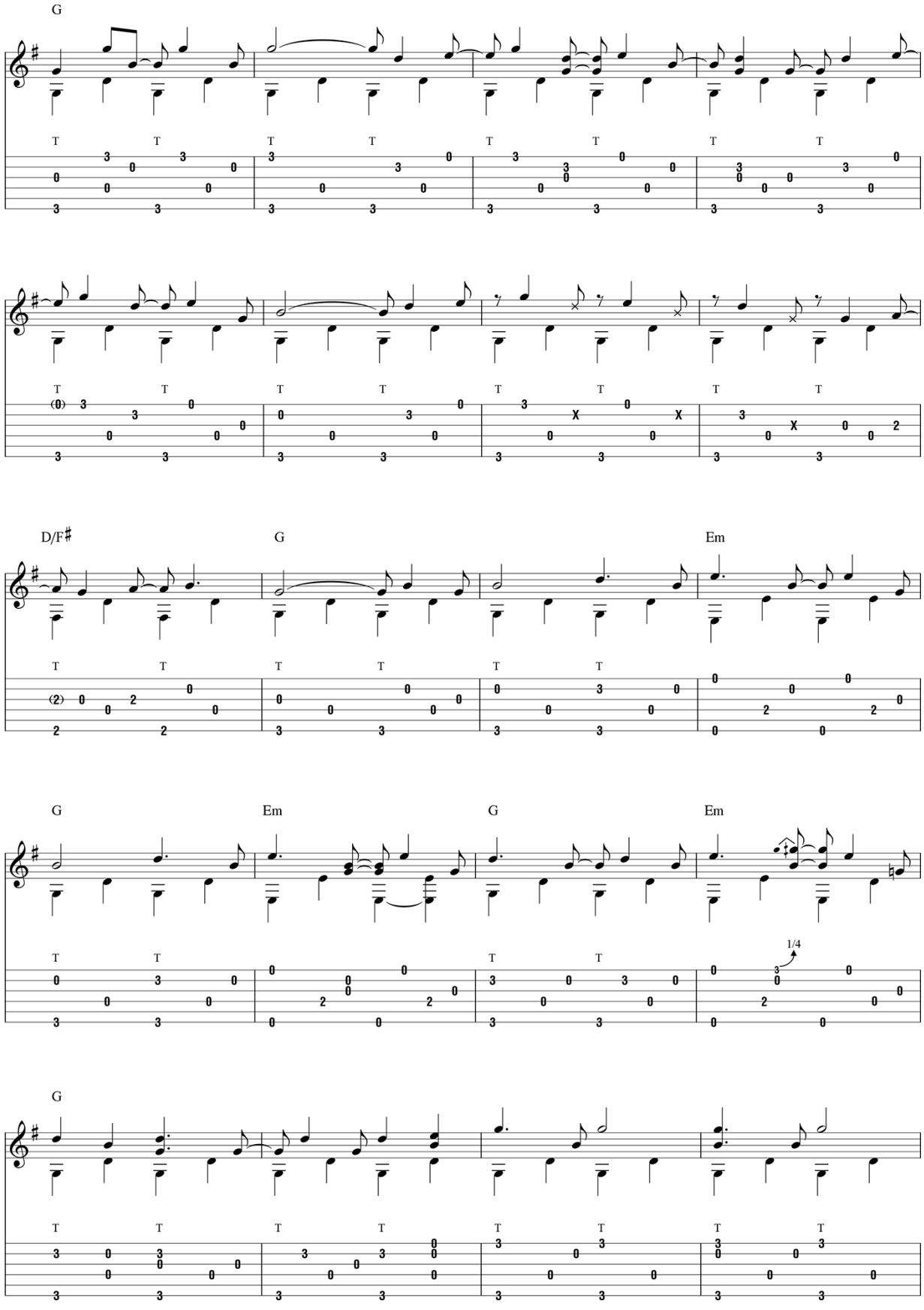
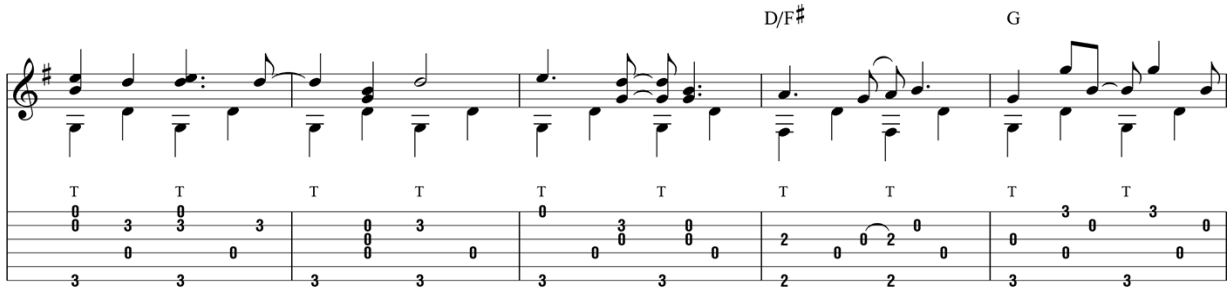
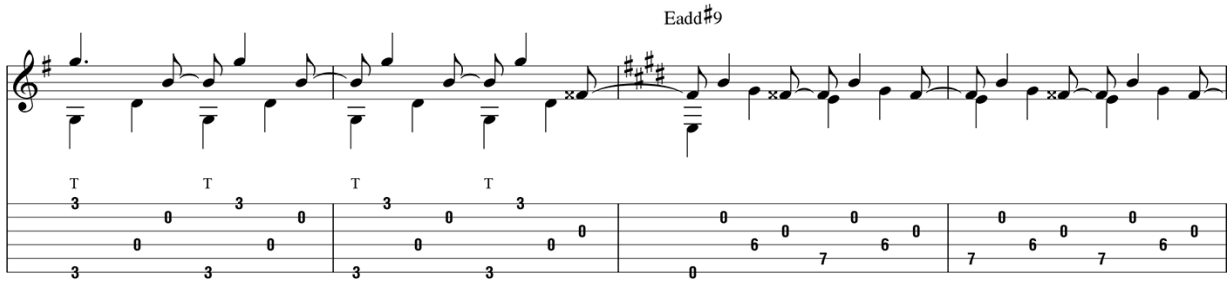
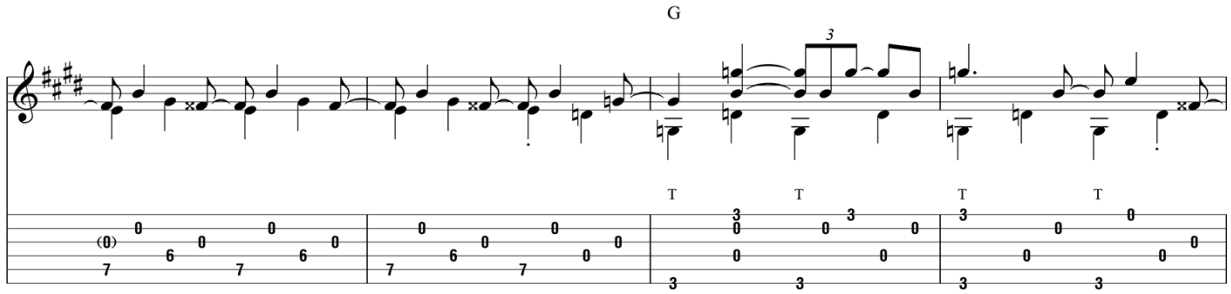
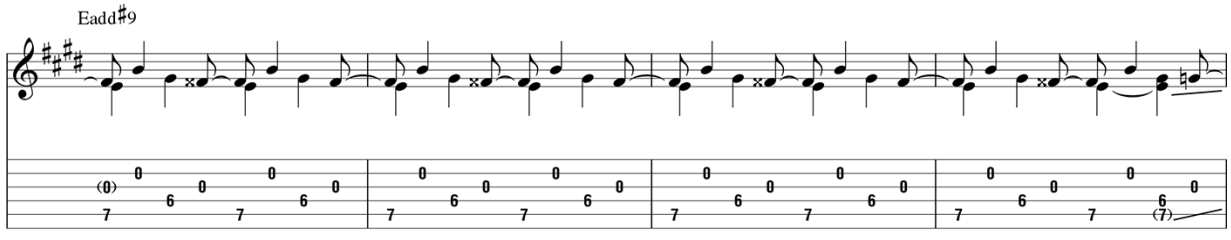

D/F♯

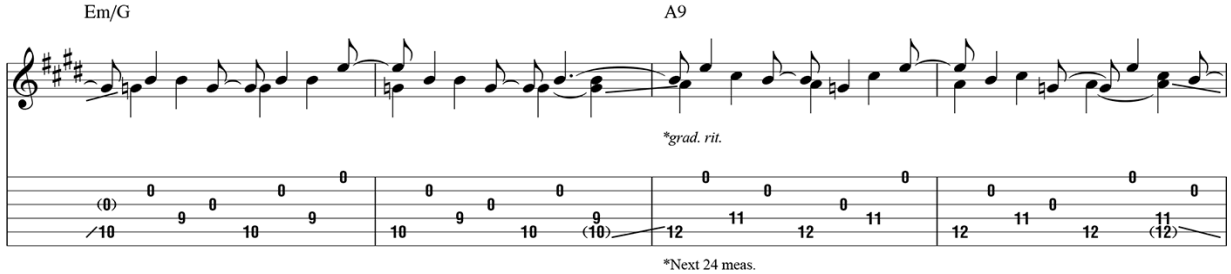

G
D/F♯
G
Em
G
Em
G
Em
1/4
G



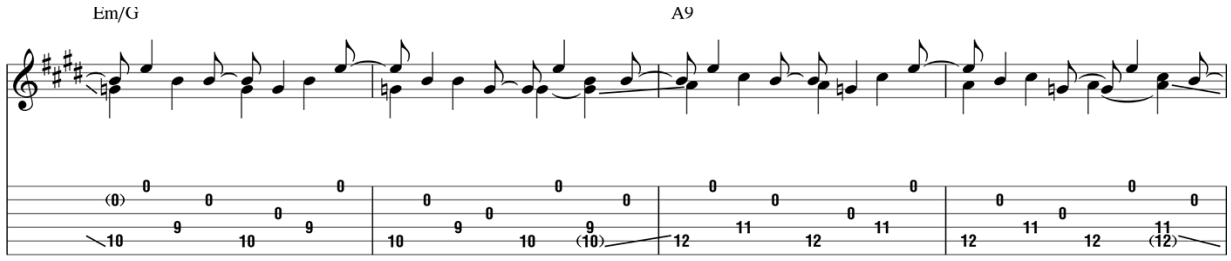


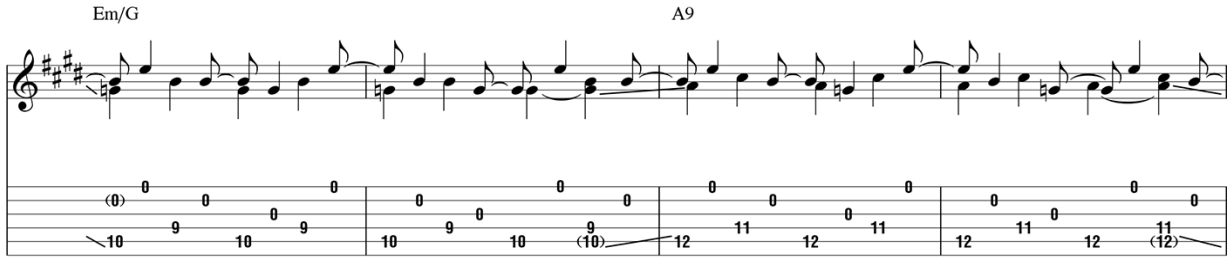


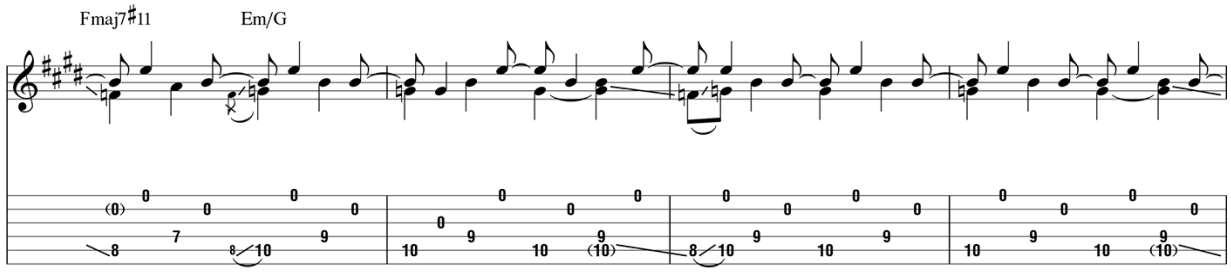


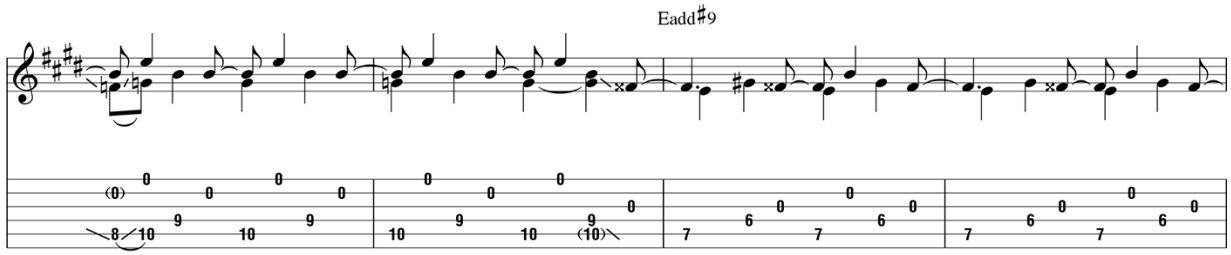


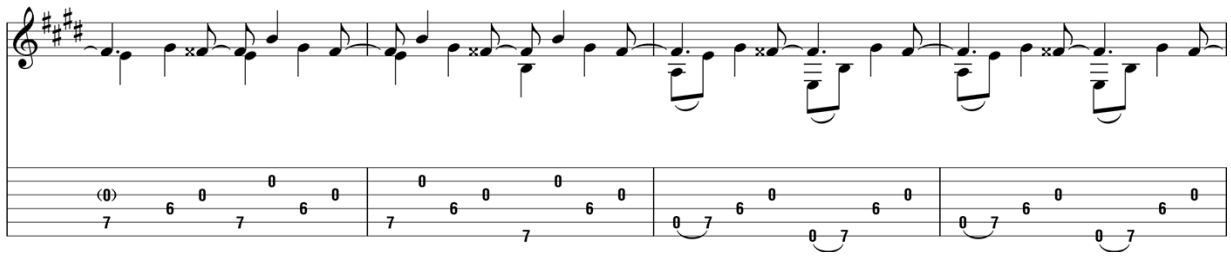
*Next 24 meas.


Em/G
A9


Em/G
A9


Fmaj7♯11
Em/G

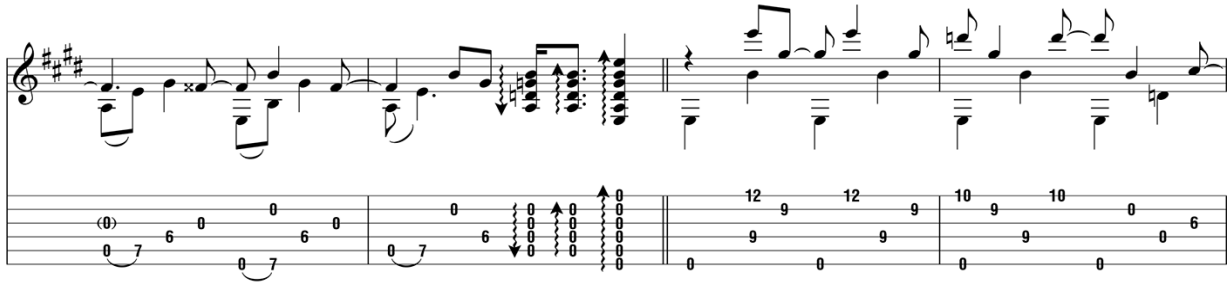

Eadd♯9



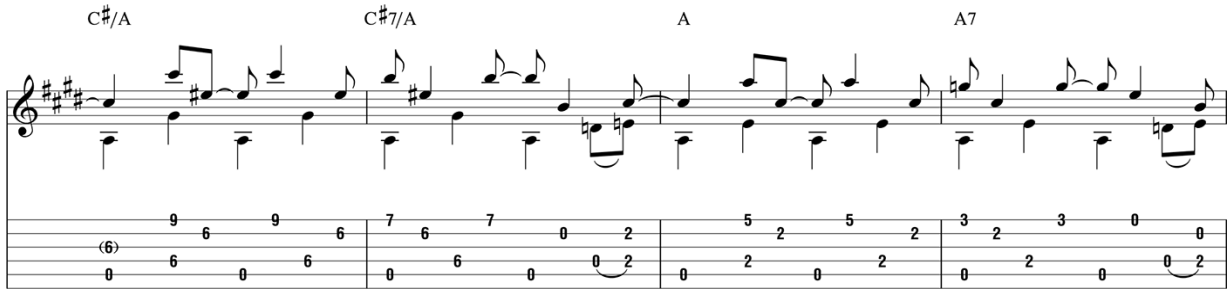
E

A tempo

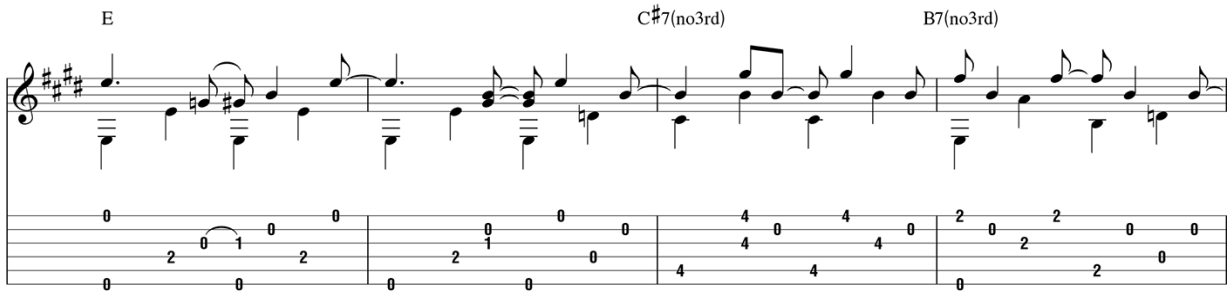
Em7add4 E



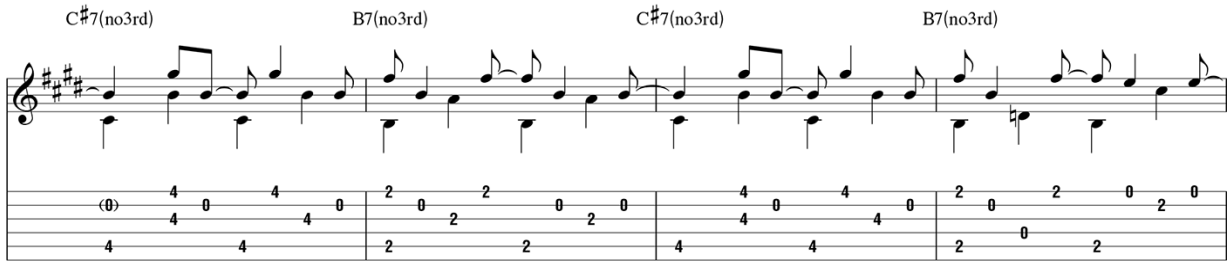
C♯/A C♯7/A A A7



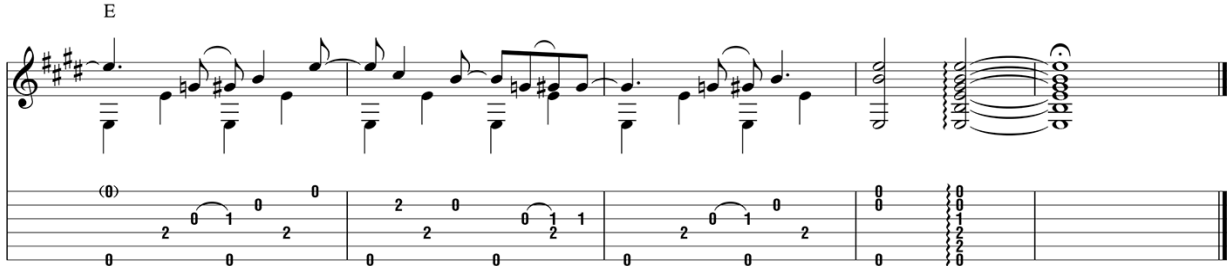
E C♯7(no3rd) B7(no3rd)



C♯7(no3rd) B7(no3rd) C♯7(no3rd) B7(no3rd)



E



JOHN FAHEY

One of the last, great pioneers of guitar exploration, the late John Aloysius Fahey (1939–2001) was the grandfather of instrumental acoustic fingerstyle guitar. For over four decades, Fahey's vast output of raw, imaginative, deeply beautiful, and sometimes bone-chilling guitar compositions have inspired legions of followers, including such disparate artists as Pete Townshend, Leo Kottke, Beck, Thurston Moore, and Jim O'Rourke, not to mention countless bedroom fingerpickers across the planet. Eighteen of his works live on in this *John Fahey Guitar Anthology*, a definitive collection of note-for-note guitar transcriptions presented in both standard notation and tablature, covering his most iconic recordings from the 1960s and '70s.

America
The Assassination of Stephan Grossman
Brenda's Blues
Dance of the Inhabitants of the Palace of King Phillip of Spain
Desperate Man Blues
In Christ There Is No East or West
Jaya Shiva Shankarah
John Henry
Poor Boy, Long Ways from Home
Sligo River Blues
Some Summer Day
Spanish Dance
Steamboat Gwine 'Round de Bend
Sun's Gonna Shine in My Backdoor Someday Blues
Sunflower River Blues
Tell Her to Come Back Home
When the Springtime Comes Again
The Yellow Princess

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